閃乱カグラ

×HAYATE×CROSS×BLADE×

11

林家志弦

Cover Design:Yoko Iwasa

UJ ウルトラYJC

はやてのごとく クロス×ブレード 13

×HAYATE×CROSS×BLADE×

林家志弦

13

林家志弦

集英社

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雑誌 44269－53

The curtain closes on the graduate farewell event, the "Great Randori," with Hayate as the winner.

The danger to their partnership from Nagi's return to school having passed, Ayana and Hayate's swords have safely found homes in their old scabbards.

Then, during the graduation ceremony itself, Hitsugi announces a date for the Summit Battle between the Amachi Hitsugi/Miyamoto Shizuku and Mikado Akira/Inori Sae pairs.

At long last, the duel staking the very existence of Tenchi Academy itself will commence.

HAYATE CROSS BLADE

HAYATE CROSS BLADE

WRETCHED 13 BEAST

SHIZURU HAYASHIYA

12

はやて×ブレード

×HAYATE×CROSS×BLADE×

黒鉄ナギ

中等部１年：休学から復帰。
はやての双子の姉。

無道綾那

中等部３年・Bランク
はやての刃友。
鬼攻めのツッコミ。

黒鉄はやて

中等部１年・Bランク
一度逃走するも、元サヤに。
鬼受けのボケ。

宮本静久

高等部１年・
Sランク
ひつぎの刃友。

天地ひつぎ

高等部２年・生徒会長
全剣待生の頂点に君臨。

柳生真

高等部３年・Dランク
剣待生初の卒業生。

静馬夕歩

中等部３年・休学中
順の刃友。

久我順

中等部３年・Cランク
綾那のルームメイト。

神門玲

高等部１年・Sランク
会長ペアとの
頂上戦を控える。

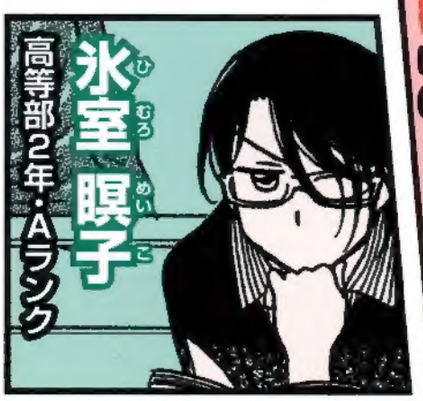
祈紗枝

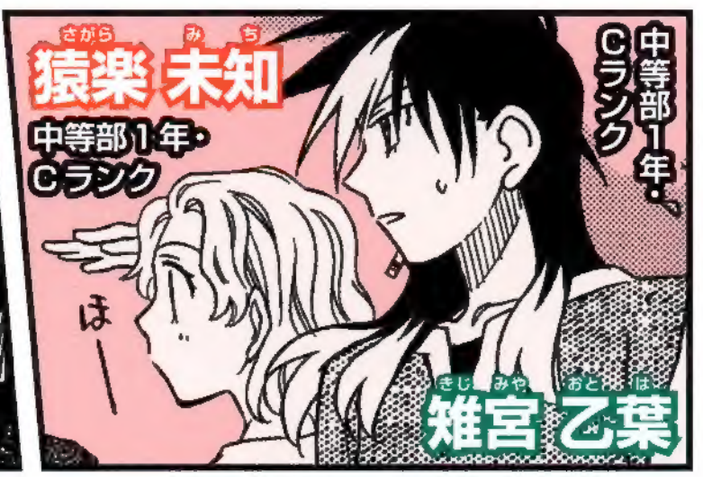
高等部１年・Sランク
玲の刃友。

STORY × CHARACTERS

剣技特待生の乙女たちが、日々バカ熱い戦いを繰り広げる「天地学園」。
卒業生送別イベント“大乱奪り”が終わり、通常運転に戻ると思いきや
卒業式の挨拶の中で、ひつぎから頂上決定戦についての重大発表が…!!

HAYATE×CROSS×BLADE





HAYATE×CROSS×BLADE

CONTENTS

#72 THE IDIOTS' GARDEN ---------- 5

#73 IF SPRING COMES, CAN IDIOTS BE FAR BEHIND? (I) 39

#74 IF SPRING COMES, CAN IDIOTS BE FAR BEHIND? (II) 71

#74.5 REAL IDIOT TAG ----------101

#75 LET IDIOTS BE----------119

#76 IDIOT IN THE SKY WITH DIAMONDS -151

EXTRA: EXCLUDED IDIOTS ---------177

AFTERWORD ----------183

Stupid Big Sis
Call me!
Saki

YES,

ehhmm...

I AM TRULY SORRY. I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY FOR MYSELF.

#72

The Idiots' Garden

Wait, Saki! I can explain! It was out of my hands!!

...

AND BY THE TIME THAT BIG SISTER FINALLY REPLIED...

A FULL THREE WEEKS HAD PASSED SINCE THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE WAS SENT.

Sigh...

YES, I GUESS WE'D HAVE TO CONSIDER THAT *FORCE MAJEURE*.

BUT BLOCKING PHONE CALLS FROM YOUR OWN LITTLE SISTER IS STILL AN UNFORGIVABLE CRIME.

I couldn't even send a text message!

I told you, I'm really sorry about that... it was an honest mistake.

THAT THING YOU LEFT WITH ME... WELL, I PUT IN MY DESK AND THEN WENT AND FORGOT IT.

SORRY 'BOUT THAT, OJOU-CHAN!

Ah ha ha ha

Counting on you!

IF YOU WOULD, BENIBACHI-SAN!

I DIDN'T HAND IT OVER TILL JUST NOW.

I HAD QUITE A BIT OF SAKE IN ME BACK THEN, Y'SEE... FORGIVE ME?

I NEVER NOTICED THE LIST INCLUDED YOU, TOO, SAKI. I'M TRULY SORRY.

STARTING WITH RYOUICHI-SAN.

I BLOCKED PRETTY MUCH ALL OF MY RELATIVES AT ONCE,

If that happened I wouldn't waste time calling, I'd sprint right to your side.

Ahhh, man

I COULD GET MYSELF HOSPITALIZED AND YOU WOULDN'T EVEN NOTICE, ONEE.

EVEN IF I CALLED THE DORM, YOU WERE NEVER AROUND OR NOBODY PICKED UP.

GOOD GRIEF... I HAD NO IDEA WHAT TO DO.

Everyone's a little too busy right now to worry about you.

Ah...

THAT'S A BIT OF GOOD LUCK. BUT ALSO KIND OF LONELY.

What about spring break? Are you coming home?

NO, IT'S MY FAULT FOR TRYING TO RUN AWAY LIKE THIS.

IF YOU'D JUST SAID WHEN YOU CALLED THE DORM THAT YOU WERE MY SISTER...

EVERYTHING'S MY FAULT, I KNOW THAT. I GUESS I'M JUST OUT OF OPTIONS HERE...

AND THE YOUNG MASTER, I WOULDN'T FRET TOO MUCH.

MM.

WELL, IF IT'S ABOUT THE FAMILY SITUA-TION...

Well, no matter. And what does that mean?

As long as we can get together at least once during break.

"AS DICTATED BY CIRCUM-STANCES"?

HMM... I DON'T KNOW... IF WE'VE STILL GOT SOME LEEWAY, MAYBE...

AH HA HA... CONGRAT-ULATIONS, MIDDLE SCHOOL 2ND-YEAR.

There'll be a bunch of new students coming in now... what a hassle. I wish I didn't have to move up a grade...

I have to get going now. Our graduation ceremony's about to start too.

I'LL PASS ON AKIRA. SHE'S NO FUN AT ALL.

Ehhh...?

If you'd like I can bring Akira along too.

That much I absolutely promise you.

garter

HOW SCARY

FLIP

HAVE YOU CONCLUDED YOUR BUSINESS, OJOU-SAMA?

THANKS A LOT. I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU.

YEAH. ...

But.

Not at all. My apologies for it being so late.

THANKS FOR THE BIRTHDAY PRESENT, TOO.

YES?

Onee?

I'LL COVER FOR YOU OVER HERE AS I HAVE TO.

YOU JUST DO WHAT YOU WANT TO DO.

You had *better* stay in touch.

YES... OF COURSE. I'LL DO EXACTLY AS YOU SAY.

Yes.

I understand. Without fail

I CAME TO TELL YOU THE CEREMONY'S STARTING. WAS THAT WRONG OF ME?

WHAT?

TO-

NAMI...

SAN?

.....
.....

WASN'T THAT YOUR GUY?

YOU'VE GOT ONE, RIGHT?

IN THE WAY...

OF WHAT?

YOU JUST STARTLED ME IS ALL, CALLING OUT SO SUDDENLY.

NO, NO, CERTAINLY NOT.

That's right, is that so bad?

IF IT WERE *THAT*, I'D BE MORE THAN HAPPY FOR YOU TO GET IN THE WAY.

?

YOU'RE ALL FAWNING LIKE THAT WITH YOUR *KID SISTER?*

YOUR LITTLE *SISTER?*

NO, NO. THAT WAS MY LITTLE SISTER.

MY GUY...

Well,

NOT LIKE IT'S THE FIRST MYSTERY I'VE EN-COUNTERED WITH YOU.

...

HMM...

I DON'T GET IT.

I SEE. DID I GET IN THE WAY?

THAT RIGHT? WELL, GOOD.

WE'D APPRECIATE YOU GOING AHEAD AND GETTING THAT CLEANED UP. SITTING AROUND SMALL-TALKING AIN'T REALLY OUR GAME.

THE REST IS UP TO THE PRESIDENT.

AHH...

NO, WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN IT. WE ALREADY GAVE HER OUR NOTICE.

JUST WHAT ARE YOU TWO GONNA DO?

SPEAKING OF MYS-TERIES...

ABOUT WHAT?

THE SUMMIT BATTLE.

DON'T TELL ME YOU FORGOT IT.

IF THE PRESIDENT WINS, WE'LL FIGHT THEM.

IF YOU TWO WIN, WE'LL FIGHT YOU AGAIN,

LOTS OF PEOPLE I NEED TO SETTLE WITH, ONCE AND FOR ALL, WHO'S BETTER.

NATURALLY THE TOP TWO, AND THEN YOU, AND ONE OTHER ONE, TOO...

One other one?

THAT'S A SWORD-BEARER'S JOB, RIGHT?

GET NEW CUSTOMERS IN, KEEP THE SHOP RUNNING.

And anyway, I'm sick of doing student council work

GUESS SO. IT'S GOTTEN PRETTY INTERESTING LATELY.

SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN, TONAMI-SAN.

...

JUST THIS ATMOSPHERE, ALONE...!

IT'S NO USE... JUST THIS ATMOSPHERE...

Eu

gh

DON'T CRY, PLEASE! THIS ISN'T *YOUR* GRADUATION!

SENPAI ...!

.....
.....
.....

ON SECOND THOUGHT, FORGET ABOUT THAT OTHER ONE.

Ah, really?

GET IT TOGETHER, PLEASE! YOU CRY EVERY YEAR!

EVEN AS YOUR SHINYUU, IT'S INDEFENSIBLE.

THIS IS JUST BEYOND NASTY. ON HER LAST DAY HERE...

AKIRA ...

I'm embarrassed.

Stop it with that bitter face!

No no no no! Defend me! You actually understand, right?

I didn't make her cry!!!

AND HERE WE HAVE SOMEBODY GOING OUT OF HER WAY TO MAKE A GRADUATE CRY.

OHH...

Oy oy...

UGHHHH

Thank you Tenchi my youth

Cheer up, Boss!

SALT-FLAVORED !?

So she's salt-flavored

Salt flavored

WE'RE LEAVING. MISS SALT-FLAVORED.

MAN OH MAN... COME ON, LET'S GO.

IT REALLY IS A BITTER SIGHT... A HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR NOW, AND STILL THINKS SHE HAS TO BE SETTLING SCORES.

Next, here to deliver the farewell address to the graduates,

underclassmen representative, High School Second-Year—

IT'S ME!!!

FUCKING GRADUATION!!

MWAHAHAHA

LET'S DO THIS!!: "MY WA-

Y

What is this, Gihren's Greed?

IT TOTALLY DOESN'T SUIT HER... OR LIKE, I DON'T EVEN GET HOW THEY *DECIDED* THIS...

WHY IS *THAT* GIVING THE FAREWELL SPEECH...?

MUMMUR

MUMMUR

MUMMUR

MUMMUR

If you don't control yourself I'm going to tie you up

...

We apologize for that.

Underclassmen representative, High School Second-Year, from Class E, Himuro Meiko.

WELL, WHATEVER THEY LIKE, BUT... CAN'T THEY JUST END THIS ALREADY? THEY'VE GIVEN OUT ALL THE DIPLOMAS.

THIS IS TOO LONG.

Wait, was it Mitoi zumi?

Of course I remember Hiraizumi!

THEY PROBABLY JUST RANDOMLY HANDED OUT THE ROLES LIKE USUAL, RIGHT?

This person at least you remember, huh?

Ahh

WELL, NORMALLY IT'D BE THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT, BUT...

OUR PRESIDENT HERE WEARS A LOT OF DIFFERENT HATS.

THIS IS TORTURE.

So we're graduating too

Huh.. I see..

IT'S ABBREVIATED, BUT THE MIDDLE-SCHOOLERS GET A CEREMONY TOO.

AFTER THIS WE'LL GO BACK TO THE CLASSROOM TO GET OUR CERTIFICATES AND HEAR A LONG SPEECH FROM OUR HOMEROOM TEACHER.

OH NO, THERE'S STILL PLENTY TO GO.

I'M IN THE SAME CLASS, SAME DORM, HAVE THE SAME ROOM-MATE...

WHOLE NEW LIFE...

YOU'RE BEGINNING A WHOLE NEW LIFE. BE A LITTLE EXCITED!

YOU'RE SUCH A WASTE, AYANA.

I'D RATHER THEY HANDED OUT XP INSTEAD OF DIPLOMAS, SO I CAN HURRY UP AND TAKE OUT DEATH PISARO.

WHY CAN'T THEY JUST DO THE WHOLE THING ABBREVIATED?

WHAT IS THERE TO GET EXCITED ABOUT?

Hm, mm!

GOING FULL TILT INTO YOUR DEGENERATE YOUNG ADULTHOOD, I SEE!

Redline, Ayana! Redline!

BEN DDDD

OWOW OWOW OWOW OW...

crk crk crkk

Come on, not here!

HOW ABOUT WE TEST THE STRETCHING POTENTIAL OF THE TENDONS IN YOUR ARM, FIRST?

Cut it out, Mudo-chin

WHEN APRIL ROLLS AROUND, NEW GIRLS WILL BE FLOODING IN HERE LIKE A TSUNAMI.

DON'T BE A FOOL, MUDOU-KUN!

YOU CAN TELL THEIR POTENTIAL RIGHT FROM THAT FIRST PHYSICAL EXAM.

THIS TIME WHAT I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IS SPRING BREAK.

THAT WAS 90% SINCERE.

ALL JOKING ASIDE...

NO, NO...

Congratulations!

So I graduated.

I see

YUUHO'S FINALLY BEING MOVED TO A NEW ROOM.

IT'LL BE A LOT EASIER TO SEE HER NOW.

HUH ...

...

HOW EACH AND EVERY PART OF THEM WILL EVOLVE, WHAT SHAPE IT'LL BE, WHAT COLOR IT'LL BE, HOW IT'LL FEEL, WHAT IT'LL—

She really is!

SHE'S COMING ALONG!

WITH EVERY-BODY, I MEAN.

SO AT LEAST ONCE THIS BREAK WE'LL HAVE TO GO VISIT HER.

JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T SEE IT, IT ISN'T SERIOUS?

NINJAS ARE NINJAS PRECISELY BECAUSE THEY HIDE THEM-SELVES.

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

ONE TIME, AT LEAST.

...

Mytoi-zumi finally done?

YEAH, WE REALLY SHOULD.

IF YOU DON'T GET A BIT MORE SERIOUS ABOUT STEALING STARS, SHE'LL BE IN FOR AN UNPLEASANT SURPRISE.

IF YUUHO'S COMING ALONG, IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE SHE'S BACK AT SCHOOL.

BUT YOU KNOW ...

Ohh hO hO?

Next, the gradu-ates'...

You did promise her you'd be wearing a white uniform

FLIP

oohh

TOTAL, RECKLESS DESPERATION... DAY IN, DAY OUT, IS JUST THE NORMAL THING.

IF WE FORGOT THAT, THAT LONE-WOLF GRADUATE TAUGHT IT TO US AGAIN.

PEOPLE LIKE US HAD BETTER BE *DEAD* SERIOUS.

THEY'RE MIGHTY STRONG UP AT THE TOP. I KNOW THAT.

Mu..

My eyes hurt from trying too much

I GUESS SO.

...

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...

At the start, my sole aim was just to get there

MAYBE I'M FINALLY...

DEAD SERIOUS AGAIN.

And Maki-san is stronger than Kuro

Right now, Yukari is probably stronger than I am

All I can think is "I want to win"

But now, having come this far

Oh..?

BUT IT WON'T DO FOR JUST ME TO BE DEAD SERIOUS.

KURO WILL HAVE TO DIE TOO.

YOU CHANGED THE MEANING A BIT THERE...

I think that's asking a little much

WHAT... SHE'S SLEEPING?

JUMP

HM WAH

OOHH!?

JOLT

JUMP

HM WAH!?

BLINK

?

HH...

IS THAT A THING TO SAY WHEN YOU'RE BRAZENLY SKIPPING OUT RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOUR PARENT'S EYES?

BOW

MAN, THEY SURE DRAG ON FOREVER, THESE GRADUATIONS...

WHICH MEANS THE CER-EMONY'S OVER?

And that's Auld Lang Syne, right?

FLICK

Oof

Faint, but.

OOH ...

THAT'S THE SHOP-CLOSING SONG.

THOUGH YOU AT LEAST MANAGED TO GET THE KIDS AT TANPOPO GARDEN ATTACHED TO YOU.

YOU NEVER WERE GREAT AT MAKING FRIENDS, SO THE PATH MIGHT BE THORNY.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GO BID FAREWELL TO A BUNCH OF PEOPLE I DON'T EVEN KNOW?

BUT, DAD... IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE I CAME HERE.

I DON'T WANT FRIENDS ANYWAY. JUST A HASSLE.

NOT REALLY.

...

I GUESS GETTIN' ACCLIMATED HAS TO COME FIRST.

Ahhh,

WELL, YOU DO HAVE A POINT THERE.

Strip Strip

POTATOES

TOKACHI

HA HA HA HA! I THINK I CAN REALLY UNDERSTAND YOU THERE.

IT JUST SEEMS LIKE ONE HUGE ANNOYANCE.

ALWAYS HAVING TO WAIT FOR SOMEBODY, OR MAKING SOMEBODY WAIT FOR YOU...

HAVING TO KEEP A BUNCH OF LITTLE PROMISES AND ARRANGEMENTS, RIGHT?

FRIENDS, COMRADES... THAT JUST MEANS

OH, NO, THIS KIND OF THING ISN'T SO BAD EITHER.

TENCHI'S RULES DON'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

BEING *ALONE* IS EASI-EST.

MM, MM!

THAT MIGHT JUST WORK OUT TOO.

FOR NOW I JUST NEED TO FIND A SHINYUU,

AND THAT'LL BE ENOUGH.

WHO HAS!?

EVER SINCE YOU WERE TINY, YOU'VE ALWAYS ONLY BEEN CLINGING TO HER...

YOU MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO DETACH FROM HAYATE A LITTLE.

PAIRING UP WITH WHOEVER'S THE EASIEST FIT FOR YOU.

I get it!

I get it,

FLING

BONK

Ahhhhh

WHAT DO YO

THINK

'RE

THROWING AT

OUR FATHER

LOOKIN' FO

A BEAT

How immature!

JUST SOMEBODY DECENTLY STRONG WHO WON'T BE A BIG PAIN IN THE NECK.

...

Let me once again congratulate all members of this, our 45th graduate class.

With this, we now conclude Tenchi Academy's ceremony for the conferral of diplomas.

.....

.....

.....

HEY, COME ON...

YOU CAN'T KEEP ON SULKING FOREVER, AKIRA.

SEND THEM OFF WITH A SMILE.

I AM *NOT* SULK-ING.

And to all guests and family members who have taken time from their busy schedules to attend today, allow me to convey my deepest gratitude.

Hmph

I AM NOT SALTY.

...

AH... THAT'S WHAT WAS BOTHERING YOU?

Look at me

YOU WERE KEEPING YOUR PROMISE WITH YANAGI-SAN, RIGHT? I UNDER-STAND.

I WAS JUST JOKING AROUND A LITTLE... YOU'RE LIKE A CHILD.

Totally unfair!

AHH...

PARADING ALL AROUND WITH IT TO MAKE YOUR-SELF LOOK COOL...

EVEN BRINGING *THAT* OUT, JUST FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR PROMISE...

WELL...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THIS HERE.

WHEN YOU MADE ME KEEP MINE HIDDEN AWAY UNTIL THE TIME COMES...

EITHER WAY, YOU'RE A CHILD, HUH?

IF ANYTHING, MAYBE IT RAISED THE ANTICIPATION A BIT.

I'M NOT CONCERNED ABOUT PEOPLE SEEING ME SWING IT ONE TIME.

IT'S JUST MODIFIED A LITTLE TO MAKE IT EASIER TO USE.

YOU KNOW, SAKI...

...

I COULD FIGHT RIGHT THIS VERY INSTANT.

HUH?

SAKI WANTS TO GET TOGETHER OVER SPRING BREAK.

OF COURSE, YOU'RE INVITED TOO. WHERE DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD GO?

SAKI?

OHH, SAKI... HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN A WHILE.

IT JUST NEEDS ONE WORD FROM *HER*.

whisper

EXCUSE ME, EVERY-ONE... THE STUDENTS WILL BE LEAVING SOON.

IT'S NOT LIKE ANYTHING'S BEEN DECIDED YET.

FOR NOW WE CAN...

...WAIT,

NO NO NO, THAT'S *NOT* WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT!

YOU JUST SPLENDIDLY DIVERTED THE COURSE OF THE CON-VERSATION AGAIN!

Ah ha ha...

WELL, THAT'S ALL RIGHT, ISN'T IT?

WE'LL NEED TO GET READY TO GUIDE THEM.

Ah,

SURE, COMING!

IF IT'S JUST A DAY, I CAN SPARE THAT MUCH.

IF YOU'RE GOING SHOPPING YOU CAN LEAVE ME OUT OF IT, THOUGH.

SINCE YOU'D DEFINITELY TURN ME INTO YOUR PACK MULE.

HUH ...?

clatter clatter

Should I bring this one too?

Well Yes, I suppose so

RIGHT THEN.

LET'S GET GOING.

...

THE AQUA-RIUM?

I guess maybe

GIRLS THAT AGE.

THEY GET ALL HAPPY LOOKING AT PENGUINS AND STUFF, RIGHT?

...

Finally...

After today, all of you will be leaving Tenchi's skies for a time, but...

RIGHT, RIGHT.

clatter

We, the swordbearers, have a special present for you.

Once you have rested your wings, and before setting off for new skies...

On the second Sunday of April,

MURMUR

Oh hoh?

we will be holding the S-Rank Swordsmanship Scholarship Students' Summit Battle,

for the public viewing of all Tenchi students.

MURMUR

four days after

the ceremony for the opening of the new term and induction of new students,

MURMUR

Hweh?

Eh?

In additon, seats will be made available to the members of this year's graduating class, as well.

It is my fondest wish that your wings be lifted by the passion and zeal of the swordbearers who walked beside you during your time here.

She never mentioned *any* kind of announcement for today...!

S-

silence

AH...

Ahh, boy...

...

Her hair's practically standing on end

So, it's finally come.

hYO

h!!

clap clap clap clap clap clap clap clap clap

WELL, A DREAM'S FINE TOO!! BURN THIS JOINT DOWN!!

MASTER & INORIN VS PRESIDENT & MIYAMOSSAN!

Uwhoo

A DREAM SHOW-DOWN!!!

MORON! THE CEREMONY'S NOT OVER YET!! GO BACK TO SLEEP!!

HOLD... KURO-GANE!!

WAIT... AM I REALLY DREAMING?

HOH-

Pfh...

TRULY, AN IDIOT!

HA HA HA...

Stop! Please!!!

IT'S A FESTIVAL!! IT'S A RIOT!!!

Heh...

MUHOHOHOHH!

Thank you very much.

Kurogane-san, quiet down a bit.

dap

A FES-TIVAL, SHE SAYS...

Heh heh...

clap

Geez...

clap

Disturbing class all the time

Ah ha ha ha ha ha ha clap clap clap clap clap clap

Even for those setting off for brand-new skies, without a back-wards glance...

Well then, we say farewell for a short while.

EVERY DAY WAS A FESTIVAL AT THIS PLACE.

I hope that this, your one-time home, will shine always in your hearts.

Tenchi will be here—and with you—forever.

RIGHT, RIGHT, FORM UP!

And we're all using the regulation swords today, got it?

Don't mess it up

EXCUSE ME, SHOULD WE LINE UP BY YEAR?

SWORD-BEARERS, GATHER OVER HERE AND GET IN LINE.

Who knows?

HOWEVER YOU LIKE, I GUESS.

Quit frownck ing!

Wahoo!

YOU'RE UNEX-PECTEDLY CALM, AKIRA.

WELL, WELL.

DON'T TELL ME YOUR ENTHUSIASM'S WANED FROM HAVING TO WAIT SO LONG.

THIS IS THE FIGHT YOU ALWAYS WANTED, RIGHT?

OF COURSE I'M CALM.

THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL "STRENGTH OF RESOLVE."

DUMMY.

EVERYTHING'S FROM HERE ON OUT.

WELL, EITHER WAY IT GOES, WE'RE LOOKING AT A BIG CHANGE.

I THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU OVER HERE BRISTLING AND SNORTING.

DON'T GIVE ME THAT...

WHAT, IT'S YOU.

...

GET A LITTLE STRONGER YOURSELF, TOO.

YEAH.

CAREFUL, I'M MAKING MINORI STRONGER EVERY DAY. WE'LL BE WINNING MORE AND MORE.

THOUGH I COULD SAY THE SAME FOR ANY SWORD-BEARER.

"From here on out"...

...

Hey!! I said hurry up and get in line!

For each
and every one
of them

it's all
"from here
on out"

Congratulations Graduates
OUR TRUE BATTLE BEGINS FROM HERE ON OUT

YOU HAVE A POINT THERE...

IT DOES CONJURE UP A CERTAIN SENSE OF FINALITY.

WHAT A LABYRINTH WORDS ARE.

YOUR BRAIN IS THE REAL LABYRINTH HERE.

...
...
...

We should have made it say "Attack with Youth"

FORGIVE ME FOR GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF, I JUST FELT SO HAPPY.

WAS IT NOT TO YOUR LIKING?

MY,

COMING OUT WITH A BIG PROCLA-MATION ALL OF A SUDDEN...

NOT THAT I EVER DO, BUT I REALLY DON'T FEEL LIKE TALKING TO YOU RIGHT NOW.

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

the graduates are coming out!

AND COME TO OVERTHROW ME.

THAT AT LAST, YOU'RE GOING TO FULFILL YOUR PROMISE,

ALOFT!!!

SWORDS

THE SALUTE FROM THE UNDER-CLASSMEN!

SWORD-BEARERS,

TAKE YOUR STANCE!

ZAH

Just can't get used to this

Wh-What's this?

What're we doing again? ^^;

I WAIT FOR THOSE WHO COME TO TOPPLE ME.

IT'S A CONTRARY THING.

EVEN AS I BELIEVE IN MYSELF,

"TENCHI WILL BE HERE FOREVER..."

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE PLENTY CONFIDENT.

BUT YOU HAVE NO INTENTION OF GETTING OVERTHROWN, RIGHT?

...

NO. ABSOLUTELY NO WAY.

I BELIEVE I MUST SENTIALLY E A MASO- CHI-

What in the world are you saying!

Or you?

Me?

Who'll it be, "from here on out"?

Let's get it decided

Ohh,

We don't have to decide a thing like that!!!

THE DAY THE TRUE TOP OF THE M-RANK IS DECIDED.

YOU LOOK FORWARD TO IT TOO, YANAGI-SAN.

YES,

Huh!?

Inori-san has already clinched the S-rank crown

M?

I'M IN YOUR DEBT, AMACHI-DONO, MIKADO-DONO!

I AWAIT YOUR DUEL FERVENTLY! I'LL BE SURE TO BE THERE!

You're the only person who would get sent to the infirmary for crying too much!
I'm really SORRY...

Trivia

Page 9

Your guy: Nancy does not state this outright but implies it through her thumb gesture, which here is not a signal of approval but a hand-sign meaning "boyfriend." The corresponding sign for "girlfriend" is an extended pinky.

Page 13

My Way is a sentimental ballad, its most famous incarnation being the version by Frank Sinatra.
The one Sid more likely has in mind, however, is Sid Vicious' punk rendition, performed in a heavily sarcastic croon and substituting absurd, vulgar lyrics for the original.

Gihren's Greed is a strategy video game based on the *Gundam* series, with elements of political ambition and intrigue.

Page 14

Death Pisaro, also called Psaro the Manslayer, is a monster from *Dragon Quest.*

Page 19

***Auld Lang Syne*:** Actually *Hotaru no Hikari* ("The Fireflies' Gleam"), a Japanese song traditionally sung at graduations, but its tune is identical to *Auld Lang Syne*'s. The song is also commonly played over the PA systems of stores, libraries, and other establishments to announce closing time.

Page 33

Certain sense of finality: The phrase "Our Real Battle Begins from Here" is stereotypically used to conclude a manga series whose serialization has been unexpectedly cut short. The banner is thus a follow-up on Makoto's comment from Chapter 71.

#73

If Spring Comes, Can Idiots Be Far Behind? (1)

Rahhh

SCRAPE

...!

AKIRA.

GUESS THIS IS AS FAR AS WE GO,

SA...

YES.
AS FAR
AS YOU
GO...

WHAT A
PITY.

MIKADO
AKIRA.

.....

HAH...

...

SLUMP

Sighhh

Just a dream.

HOW CLICHÉD CAN YOU GET...?

MAN, WHAT THE HELL...

AGHHHHHHHH!!!

Mmm—n...

WHAAAT, AKIRA? WHAT'S THE BIG RACKET?

COME ON, LIE DOWN AND SLEEP A BIT LONGER.

#73

If Spring Comes, Can Idiots Be Far Behind? (I)

AGHHHHHHHH!!!

A-fixin' to burst, a-fixin' to blow?

Kuro-Bubble

Pwaa—n

Nr—gh...

UP ALREADY, MASTER?

COME ON, NOT YET... MY KURO-BUBBLE HASN'T EVEN BURST YET...

WHAT ARE WE DOING ...?

Ehh ?

Why.

What in the hell are you people doing!?!?

That's not what I'm asking about!!!

LINING UP LIKE THE III CHARACTER, RIGHT?

SHE'S USED UP ALL HER BODY STRENGTH RIGHT AFTER WAKING UP...

Hah—

hah—

.....

.....

.....

.....

M-

MASTER ...

I feel kinda bad for her

CANDID CAMERA-TYPE SITUATIONS OF THIS CALIBER ARE PERFECTLY COMMON DURING VACATION TIME.

CALM YOURSELF, MIKADO-SAN. IT'S SPRING BREAK.

FOR A WHITESHIRT TO HAVE ONLY *ONE* VARIATION OF THE SURPRISE TAKE...

creak

creak

creak

DE-PLORABLE, INDEED... EVEN IF IT'S FOR COMIC EFFECT,

IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR THE PINNACLE OF THE ACADEMY TO BE GOING PEEPING WITH A STEPLADDER?

AGHHH HHHH!!!!

BUT NOW THAT THE SUMMIT BATTLE'S DECIDED, I WANT NO MORE TO DO WITH YOU THAN I HAVE TO.

UNTIL SCHOOL STARTS UP AGAIN, I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE ONCE.

LET ME JUST SAY THIS, HITSUGI,

BANG

YEAH.

EXCEPT I DON'T REMEMBER IT EVER STARTING IN THE FIRST PLACE.

...
...

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU MEAN TO SAY OUR FRIENDSHIP IS AT AN END...?

THE BOTH OF US.

AND HAVE BEEN FROM THE START.

AFTER ALL, WE'RE MEANT TO DESTROY EACH OTHER,

I SUPPOSE SO.

WHY IS IT? I SEEM TO ONLY EVER BE HATED BY MIKADO-SAN.

HOO...

SLAM

And don't come back!!!

rattle

IF YOU'RE HOPING TO BE LIKED, I THINK YOU'RE GOING ABOUT IT THE WRONG WAY.

Hold up! HEY!!

Get this goddamn ladder outta here!!!!

BANG

AHHH,

IT WON'T DO TO MEET IN JEST ANYMORE.

THAT WAS WRONG OF ME. IT'S JUST THAT I FELT SO MERRY.

YOU ENDED UP NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE HIM FOR NEW YEAR'S, AFTER ALL...

THE DAY YOUR FATHER'S SUPPOSED TO COME BACK.

Hmm?

COME TO THINK OF IT, IT WAS TODAY, WASN'T IT?

NOTHING BUT JOYFUL THINGS THIS SPRING.

THAT'S RIGHT.

DON'T MIX THEM UP. PLEASE.

The excessive happiness is deranging my mind

I MIGHT GET THEM ALL MIXED UP, AND END UP BEATING MY FATHER TO DEATH WITH A SWORD.

ALL THESE THINGS I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO, ONE AFTER THE OTHER...

LAST I SAW HER WAS YESTER-DAY IN THE CAFETERIA.

BEATS ME.

AYANA, WHERE'S HAYATE-CHAN?

WHAT'S THIS?

WHAT SHOULD WE DO? WE REALLY HAVE TO GET GOING...

EHHH?

OH?

YIKES... HOW COLD!

HAYATE-CHAN WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YUUHO MORE THAN ANYBODY.

JUST MEANS SHE'S NOT GOING, RIGHT?

LEAVE HER.

...

OH HOH HOH...?

SEEMS LIKE THAT CONFIDENCE FACTOR HAS GONE UP A LEVEL AGAIN.

SHE'S NOT THE SORT TO BE LATE AT A TIME LIKE THIS.

I'M SAYING... THE FACT THAT SHE'S NOT HERE ANYWAY, MEANS SHE MUST BE THINKING SOME-THING OR OTHER, RIGHT?

MORE IMPORTANTLY, DON'T GET STAINS ON THE CLOTHES I LENT YOU, 'K?

NO NO, CERTAINLY NOT.

MAKING ME CHANGE MY ENTIRE OUTFIT WHEN I WAS ALL READY TO GO...

I NEVER ASKED FOR THEM. YOU PUSHED THEM ON ME YOURSELF.

LIKE I GIVE A DAMN.

DOG

DOG

...DID YOU SERIOUSLY INTEND TO GO OUT IN THAT WEIRD-LOOKING SHIRT?

THAT MIGHT BE A LITTLE FUN IN ITS OWN RIGHT...

HAYATE-CHAN NOT COMING IS A LITTLE UNEXPECTED, BUT...

WELL, IF YOU'RE GOING TO PUT IT THAT WAY...

ARE YOU PLOTTING SOMETHING AGAIN?

HOLD ON...

SO...

AQUA

YEAH.

I WONDER WHY.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

...
...
...

AND WHY IN HELL ARE *YOU* HERE TOO, MIDGET WEIRDO!?!?

MASTER! hURRY!! IT'S A KRAKEN FESTIVAL!!

KRAAAA-KEN!!!!!!

ASAP!!!

UPSON STREET

Ah ha ha Full of energy!

C'mon! C'mon!

Giant Squids

Nothin' but them squids

NOBODY WAS CALLING YOU.

There aren't any whales

Sigh

MY AMUSEMENT RADAR SAID THERE WAS A WHALE OF A TIME TO BE HAD HERE!! ALSO, ACTUAL WHALES!!

HAPPINESS WAS CALLING ME!!

THAT'S RIGHT. I DON'T REMEMBER EVER BEING CALLED BY YOU.

YEAH, YEAH.

twitch

Tch...

I NEVER CALLED *YOU*, EITHER.

twitch twitch twitch

YAhh hAAAA!!!

THE PROBLEM, AS I SEE IT...

YES, THAT'S RIGHT. THE RULES SAY I NEED A GUARDIAN.

LISTEN UP, SAKI. LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT FROM THE START.

WE'RE LETTING *YOU* COME ALONG WITH *US*.

KNEAD

They're pretty strict with the rules at your school, right?

GREH...

THAT PART OF YOU *REALLLLY* REMINDS ME OF A CERTAIN SOMEBODY!

IS WHETHER SOMEBODY *WAY* BELOW ME IN MENTAL AGE IS REALLY FIT TO SERVE AS MY GUARDIAN!

In that sense, Onee's the only one here that can be called my guardian!

IN A SENSE I'M ACTING AS YOUR GUARDIAN RIGHT NOW. KEEP THAT IN MIND.

...

Don't stand there laughing!! Say something, Sae!!!

PBH!!

HURRY UP, MASTER!! THE SQUIDS! LET'S GO SEE THE SQUIDS!!!

AC

SHADDAAAAAAP!!!

THERE'S NO REASON TO *YELL* AT HER LIKE THAT!! YOU BIG *JERK*!!!

SH... SHUT THESE TWO UP!!

BE QUIE...

HEY— SAE!

Squids!

Yerk!

Yerk!

Heh heh.. Peh.

.....

.....

.....!

Yah!

SHE—

REALLY MAKES NEW FRIENDS IN A SNAP, THAT KUROGANE-SAN.

Whoooo!!! Sharktros!

Look, Kuro-chan! Sharks!

...
...
...

I wonder about that...

From what I recall all I did is get smashed between them.

BUT I FEEL LIKE THIS TIME, IT'S YOU WHO BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER, HUH?

YET SOMEHOW IT'S NOT SURPRISING... MAYBE INEVITABLE, EVEN?

SAKI'S A PRETTY SHY KID, TOO.

IF THIS IS WHAT YOU EXPECTED, I'M SURPRISED YOU CAME ALONG SO EASILY.

MY...

And she got some unexpected help in the weirdness department

THIS IS ABOUT THE OUTCOME I EXPECTED, COMING HERE WITH SAKI...

WELL, IT'S FINE...

I'M NOT SO SELFISH I'D JUST BLOW OFF MY ARRANGEMENTS WITH PEOPLE.

AND I HAD A SORT OF BAD DREAM, ANYWAY...

?

A DREAM?

WHAT SORT?

"NOW THAT THE SUMMIT BATTLE'S DECIDED..."

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID THIS MORNING, RIGHT?

I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY, "THIS IS NO TIME FOR PLAYING AROUND," AND BACK OUT...

DUMMY.

I'M THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED THE AQUARIUM, AREN'T I?

HOW CLICHÉD.

ABOUT LOSING TO HITSUGI.

YEAH, IT IS.

Hmmmm...

SO THE INTERPRE-TATION OF THAT DREAM WOULD BE WHAT...

YOU'RE LOSING HEART?

NO, IT'S NOT THAT. I'M AS CONFIDENT AS EVER.

THE ONLY THING THAT BOTHERS ME IS JUST...

IT'S LIKE THE PLACE IN MY HEAD USUALLY TAKEN UP BY MY FATHER, IS NOW OCCUPIED BY HITSUGI.

...NO, MORE THAN THAT...

THE HITSUGI IN THAT DREAM LOOKED A LOT LIKE MY OLD MAN ALWAYS DOES IN MY DREAMS...

AND I'M NOT SCARED OF HITSUGI EITHER!

BUT I'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS BEING SCARED OF MY DAD...

THAT JUST MEANS THE PRESIDENT HAS TAKEN OVER THE #1 SPOT FOR YOUR WORST FEARS, DOESN'T IT?

SO...

EHM...

YOU THINK I'VE LIKED BEING TALKED ABOUT LIKE SOME DEFECTIVE PRODUCT, EVER SINCE THE DAY I WAS BORN?

Yank

IT'S NOT THAT I'M AFRAID OF MY FATHER, I JUST WANT TO CHANGE

THAT GODDAMN STUBBORN MIND OF HIS.

Pace

Pace

WHAT.

Pace

Quit orbiting me

Yep, yep!

That's right

...

AHH...

I SEE. INDEED.

TA-DAM!!!

YOU'RE A POOR KID, AKIRA.

IF ONLY YOU HAD JUST A THIRD OF KUROGANE-SAN'S COMMUNICATION ABILITY...

HUH?

WHAT'S THE MIDGET WEIRDO GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING? WHY AM I A POOR KID?

MASTER! A STAR! I FOUND A STAR!

A REALLY, REALLY HUGE ONE!!

.....
.....
YOU...

WHERE THE HELL DID YOU GET THIS FROM?

Nice one, Kuro-chan!

THE SEA-CREATURE TOUCH TANK!!

I'M SAYING...

YOU DON'T GET IT, HUH, MIDGET WEIRDO.

HITSUGI'S STAR IS WAY, WAY BIGGER THAN THAT!

AMAZING! IF YOU CAN TAKE THIS, YOU'LL BE KING!!

THE PRESIDENT'S STAR IS ABOUT THIS SIZE, ISN'T IT?

...

GA—N

?

How many Tokyo Domes can't you try thinking a little more before you say stuff?

For reallll !?

So like in terms of Tokyo Domes, how many would it be?

It's just that the person you most want to recognize you has changed, right?

I'm saying

to the President

From your father

I thought it'd be good luck.

Oohh. I'm sharry.

And anyway don't throw something like that! That's a living being

C-

Why am I "thick-headed" now!?

Cut it out, seriously! Don't call me "Papa"! It's indecent!!

LET'S GO, KURO-CHAN!

YE—S!

Have to put this gentleman back too

AHH, HOW FRUS-TRATING!

LET'S GO, SAKI. WE CAN LEAVE YOUR THICK-HEADED PAPA BEHIND.

Hm?

I shouldn't've come in the first place!

I'm not your papa, either !!!

YOU CAN JUST GO HOME, PAPA.

YOU REALLY ARE A PROB-LEM...

Feel free

Then, Mama?

I'm not her DAD !!!

YOU'LL HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON THAT KID OF YOURS, DADDY.

NOW, NOW, WE CAN'T BE HAVING VISITORS TAKING DISPLAY ANIMALS OUT OF THEIR TANKS.

Since we're looking after them for their mother, the Sea

AND who are you!?

IS IT WEIRD FOR HER SHINYUU TO COME?

EHHHHH? WELL, HOW RUDE.

WHY ARE *YOU* HERE?

...

I MEAN, LOOK AT ME... I CAME ALONG EVEN THOUGH I'M ALMOST A COMPLETE STRANGER.

NOT AT ALL, MUDOU-SAN!

N-

I REALLY AM SORRY.

IF I KNEW, I WOULD'VE COME A DIFFERENT DAY...

...IS EVERYONE ABOUT READY TO COME OVER HERE YET?

...

...

EVERYONE BARGING IN AT ONCE MIGHT JUST PUT A STRAIN ON HER.

I JUST MEANT I'D LIKE TO HAVE KNOWN IF OUR SCHEDULES WERE GOING TO OVERLAP.

NO,

YOU TOO, YUKARI, THERE'S NO NEED TO SPEAK LIKE THAT...

Im bored

You're definitely lying, right? With a face like that

BUT I HAD NO IDEA WHAT YOUR PLANS MIGHT BE.

I'M SORRY TO MAKE YOU WORRY FOR ME, YUKARI.

I DIDN'T LET JUN KNOW ABOUT IT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE EITHER.

Oogh

See?

IF ANYTHING, I'M JUST GLAD TO SEE EVERY-ONE TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE AGAIN.

SINCE IT SEEMS SHE'S AWFULLY AFRAID OF ME.

BUT I DO THINK IT MIGHT BE A PROBLEM FOR AYANA.

Hee...

YES, WELL.

IF YUUHO'S FINE WITH IT, I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM EITHER.

plop

Welcome, welcome!

Yes, thank you

Me!?

THOUGH I CAN SENSE JUN MAKING A SMUG FACE RIGHT NOW.

...

Right, Mudou-san!

YUKARI, COME ON! YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE LIKE THAT...

AT LEAST FOR TODAY, LET'S ALL JUST GET ALONG...

IF YUKARI DOESN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH IT,

I'M FINE TOO.

NO, I'M...

NOT...

AFRAID.

Ooh

HOW COULD I BE FRIGHTENED...

OF THE PERSON I'M COMING TO BEAT!?

"COMING TO BEAT ..."

I SEE.

SO YOU DO INTEND TO WIN. I'M GLAD.

.....
.....

AYANA,

YOU SHOULD FACE THE PERSON YOU'RE TALKING TO WHEN YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

SINCE, IF YOU DIDN'T...

THERE'D BE NO MEANING IN OUR WINNING EITHER.

SHADDUP! I'M NOT SCARED!

CRACKLE

.....

yikes

Geez...

These two really...

Hoo

.....

.....

AND FIGHTING *MEANINGLESS* BATTLES DOES NOTHING BUT BLUNT MY SKILLS.

!

SO I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

A DUEL BETWEEN AYANA AND YUKARI, HUH...

I THINK I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT TOO.

I can't stand this type of atmosphere...

with this kind of thing

I'm really bad

Emit that fighting spirit, wherever they are...

BA-DUMP BA-DUMP BA-DUMP

ALL RIGHT, THEN...

I'LL TAKE WINNER!

• • • •

WE CAN JUST EARN BACK THE TIME WE LOST ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

WHEN MAY COMES, I PLAN ON COMING BACK FULL-STRENGTH.

ANY-WAY...

I JUST WANT TO HURRY UP AND SWING A SWORD AGAIN!

THAT'LL BE NO TIME AT ALL.

BEFORE WE TALK ABOUT THAT, WE HAVE TO GET YOU OUT OF THE HOSPITAL FIRST...

NO... HOLD ON, YUUHO ...

Did that graduate farewell event flip some kind of odd switch in you, Yuuho-san?

YOU'D BETTER GET READY TOO, JUN.

Even if maybe there's an invisible dividing line that seems to be drawn between us.

Same Year

Dividing Line

Senpai

We are all footsoldiers of the sword

Unable to separate ourselves from the sword

YEAH...

AH HA HA... IT'LL BE A HANDFUL, PROTECTING HER.

I'LL BE HAPPY TO TAKE YOU ON ANY TIME.

WHETHER I'M "WINNER" OR NOT.

I'M JUST HERE TO WATCH OVER THEM.

I'M AN UPPERCLASSMAN. NATURALLY I WOULDN'T BE IN THEIR CIRCLE...

YEAH. THIS IS FOR THE BEST...

mumble

mumble

Hy, what a fine view

SENPAI!

Ahh...

That's right. Wherever we are,

We are all sword-bearers.

We are all...

SENPAI?

ERGH...

DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY?

IT'S YOUR STAR SHE'D BE COMING TO TAKE, YOU KNOW!

JAG

JAG

...I DON'T THINK IT'S SOMETHING TO CRY OVER...

...

I will fight for you, all the way to the bitter end...!!!

even if my spine gets blasted to bits... I will...

Yes...

even if it costs my life...

as long as I'm your shinyuu, Yukari,

I won't lose!

THRUST

Oogh...

AH,

WELL...

I THOUGHT MAYBE SHE'D BE COMING TODAY TOO...

BY THE WAY, WHERE IS THE LITTLE ONE?

THAT MIGHT BE A TALL ORDER.

...

IT'S MAKI-SAN'S AND THE LITTLE ONE'S STARS I'LL HAVE TO TAKE...

THAT'S RIGHT ...

EVEN THOUGH I REALLY, REALLY WANTED TO SEE HER, I HAD TO HOLD MYSELF BACK.

I'M ALWAYS ALL ROLLING ROUND IN THE MUD WITH EVERYBODY AT TANPOPO GARDEN, SO...

PFISH

THEY SAY SIGMA'S REAL SUSCEPTIBLE TO GERMS AND STUFF RIGHT NOW...

AND SO THEN...

I WISH I COULD BE TOGETHER WITH ONEE LIKE THAT.

YOU SHOULD'VE JUST COME TO TENCHI TOO, SAKKYUN.

I'M JEALOUS, KURO-CHAN.

AND THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE HER ANY TIME YOU WANT, RIGHT?

BUT SHE'LL BE LET OUT OF THE HOSPITAL SOON, RIGHT?

I SEE...

'Sup?

SHE SURE WILL!

AND WHEN SHE DOES, WE'LL PLAY TOGETHER LOTS AND LOTS! AND FINALLY SETTLE THE SCORE!!

BUT, HAVING ME STAY AT HOME IS CONVENIENT IN A LOT OF WAYS.

MAYBE SO...

HMM...

AND OVER THE ALIEN LIFEFORM THAT'S AFTER ONEE.

ALIEN LIFEFORM !!!?

DUN!

SO I CAN KEEP WATCH OVER MY CAREFREE PARENTS WASTING MONEY...

AH HA HA... THE SCORE, HUH?

YOU'RE SO COOL, SAKKYUN!!!

SINCE THERE'S SOMETHING LIKE THAT ALWAYS HANGING AROUND THE HOUSE, JUST WAITING TO STEAL ONEE AWAY, I HAVE TO STAY THERE TO STAND GUARD!

Hwyeeeeh!!

BEAT THAT WEIRD THING'S BRAINS OUT!!!

grasp grasp scratch scratch

THAT'S RIGHT.

WITH HIS GREEDY, GRASPING CLAWS...

Hwahh...

grasp glint glint glisten grasp scratch

THAT MALICIOUS, INDECENT GLINT IN HIS EYES...

HIS GREASY, SLICK HAIR...

HEEEE

scratch glint glisten stick grin gloom grasp twitch

ALL DARK AND GLOOMY AND INSISTENT... ALWAYS GETTING ANGRY...

THE LOWEST POSSIBLE FORM OF LIFE.

...

MASTER'S SUPER STRONG! THAT ALIEN'LL BE NO SWEAT FOR HER!

I'M THERE, AND MASTER'S THERE, TOO!

AND AT TENCHI, JUST LEAVE INORIN TO US!!

WELL... NOT THAT I CAN REALLY DO ANYTHING, EITHER.

Hm? Yeah, why?

What's this? I'm paying for it?

I DON'T THINK WE CAN RELY ON AKIRA'S HELP IN THIS.

...I'M NOT SO SURE.

Hyahhhh!!

SPLSH

ALWAYS READY TO MOVE AT A SINGLE WORD FROM HER.

SO UNTIL THEN I'LL JUST STAY THERE WAITING,

IN THE END IT'LL HAVE TO BE ONEE WHO DECIDES THINGS.

Y-

YOU BET! PLENTY!!

DO YOU HAVE LOTS OF FRIENDS IN THE SAME GRADE?

TELL ME MORE ABOUT TENCHI!

SORRY, TALKING ABOUT THESE WEIRD THINGS...

AH...!

INORIN'S GOING TO...?

OOhh...

Eyyy!

Decide things?

With the alien?

Like with a final special move?

hUM?

MICCHI!...

AND KIJICCHAN, AND...

THERE'S MOKA-CHAN, AND INU-CHAN,

THEY'RE ALL REAL FUNNY...

Enough with the "Papa"!

At least make it Onii sa

Wait, I mean Onee-san...

...right?

Here you are! Papa's treat!

WHERE WAS IT THEY WERE GOING AGAIN...?

COME TO THINK OF IT, THEY SAID THEY WERE ALL GOING TOGETHER SOMEWHERE TO DO TRAINING...

WHAT IS IT?

?

?

?

ARI... ARIZOMA ...

Arizona not strange?

VWOOOOOOOOO

Arizona

YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE A MIDDLE SCHOOL JUNIOR. YOU COULD AT LEAST REMEMBER THE NAME OF YOUR DESTINATION.

NOT "ARID ZONE," IT'S *ARIZONA*.

JUST WHAT KINDA ARID ZONE DID YOU LEAD US INTO HERE?

HEY.

KIJI.

Hoh

Hoh

Hoh

Hoh

Before I'm a middle school junior I'm gonna be a corpse, thanks to gettin' dragged along with you !!!

This ain't the time for making snide remarks, is it!?!?

Look at us!

We're like some kinda Sentai squadron here!

We surrender!

Yeep

WH...!

YOU FOLLOWED ME ALL ON YOUR OWN!! DON'T JUST SHOVE IT ALL ON MY PLATE!!

IT'S YOU, FATHER?

Ahh, thank goodness

The master's well?

WHAT'S HAPPENED? YOU'RE RATHER LATE.

That's right, Hitsugi-chan... I missed a flight. I'm at Narita now.

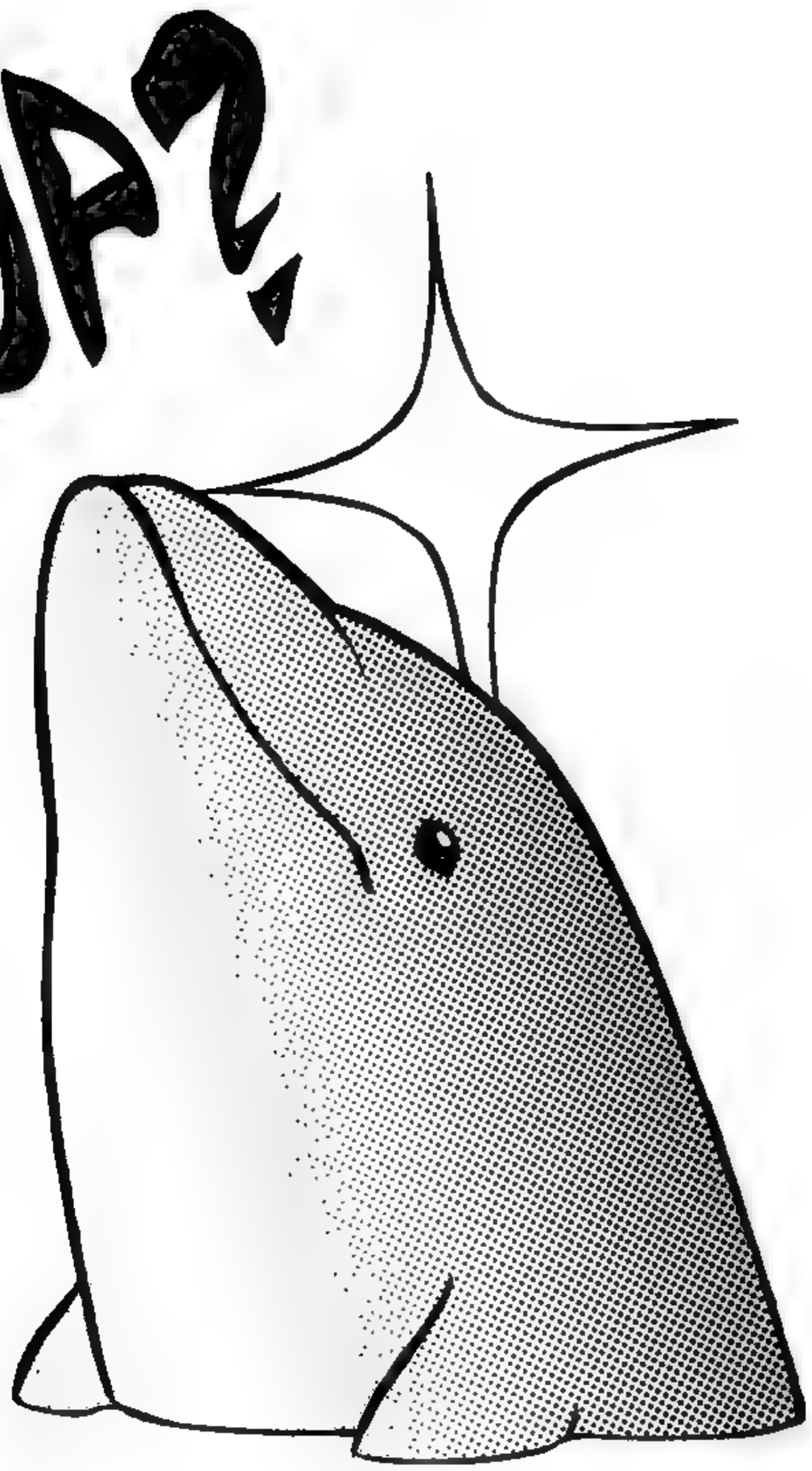
On the way to the airport in Arizona, we got caught by some of the natives... they said we'd interfered with their tribe's festival, and got really mad...

Boy, was it scary!

×HAYATE×CROSS×BLADE×

はやてブレード

"SUPER"



×HAYATE
CROSS
BLADE×

Hah

Hi-Ho

Hohh

Ho-ah Ho-ah

Hoh'cha

Hoh

Hohho

...
...

Hoo

I DIDN'T THINK THERE WERE ANY WARLIKE TRIBES LIKE THIS STILL LEFT...

EVEN SO... THIS IS ODD...

ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT, DON'T SEEM LIKE WE'RE COMING OUTTA THIS ONE UN-SCATHED...

CAUGHT US WITHOUT ANY WEAPONS... THIS MIGHT BE CHECK-MATE.

WE DON'T WANT AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT HERE! LET'S JUST STAY CALM AND SEE WHERE THEY'RE TAKIN' THIS!

Nooooo!! Don't do that!!

Manitou!

Manitou!

Manitou!?

If it's come to this... Then even if we have to call on the power of evil spirits...!!

I suppose there's no other recourse...

FOOM

QUIETEN YOUR SPIRITS, AND DEPART THIS PLACE, WAYFARERS.

THIS IS THE ROUTE OF OUR ANCESTORS.

STAMP

WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO FIGHT.

#74

If Spring Comes, Can Idiots Be Far Behind? (II)

WHY IS IT... FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN HER SOMEPLACE BEFORE...

DA—N

OH?

What did she say?

.....
.....
.....

Excuse us?

I THOUGHT I WOULD NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN, HITSUGI-CHAN!

THAT WAS SOME CULTURAL EXCHANGE I GOT MYSELF INTO.

HOO, MAN!

ONCE YOU HAVE A PROPER TALK WITH PEOPLE, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS STRANGERS.

THEY WERE PRETTY MAD, BUT THEY NEVER WANTED TO DO ME ANY HARM.

Ching

BY THE TIME I LEFT, WE WERE FAMILY.

YUP!

YOU BET! I ACTUALLY HAD A TON OF FUN.

YOU LOOK TO ME TO HAVE ENJOYED YOURSELF THOROUGHLY.

...

YOUR OUTFIT TELLS A DIFFERENT STORY, FATHER.

MY...

WHAT A MAGNIFICENT HOKKAIDO SOUVENIR.

It's a grizzly bear!

Any way you look at it, it's the same old brown bear we have here

IT WAS A TOUGH CHOICE, BUT I ENDED UP JUST BRINGING THIS GUY HERE. ISN'T HE GREAT!?

THEY GAVE ME A WHOLE BUNCH OF SOUVENIRS, BUT I COULDN'T CARRY THEM ALL.

And so then,

GUESS I'LL TAKE A LITTLE BREATHER FIRST.

AH, THAT'S RIGHT.

Oh, thank you!

SIR, THE BATH HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR YOU.

WELL, JOURNEYS AREN'T ABOUT THE THINGS YOU GET, THEY'RE ABOUT THE MEMORIES.

Ha ha

THE WONDERFUL PEOPLE THAT I MET OVER THERE.

AFTER THAT, I WANT YOU TO HEAR ALL ABOUT THEM.

THANKS, IT'S GOOD TO BE HERE.

ALTHOUGH, THAT SAID, I CAN'T STAY VERY LONG.

AND ANYWAY... WHAT WAS THAT THERE? YOU GUYS WEREN'T THAT KIND OF TRIBE, WERE YOU?

It was kind of scary

It's not the Presi-dent ?

Nn—?

It's really not the Presi dent ?

WELCOME BACK, OTOHA.

JUST WHEN I WAS THINKING "MORE JAPANESE...?", THIS TIME IT'S YOU!

WHAT!

poke poke

HEY.

IN ANY CASE, I SURE AM GLAD IT'S YOU.

poke

KIJI.

THERE ARE TRIBES AROUND HERE WITH DIFFERENT LANGUAGES, AFTER ALL.

...

...

Yo.

nudge nudge nudge

IF IT CAME TO IT, I WAS WORRIED I'D HAVE TO USE MYSELF AS A SHIELD...

HEY, I SAID!

nudge

I SEE...

WE MUST WATCH OVER THEM IN THE SPIRIT AND GUISE OF WARRIORS.

WELL, THIS IS THE TIME WHEN ANCIENT SOULS TRAVEL ABOUT.

AH, YES.

You guys had some-thing like that ?

It's a once-every 5-years festival

I suppose you wouldn't know about it, Otoha

Hoh

YOU'RE THE ONE CHATTING IT UP IN SOME MYSTERY LANGUAGE. IF YOU DON'T TRANSLATE A BIT FOR US WE GOT NO CLUE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ

CAN'T YOU EVEN BE QUIET FOR ONE MINUTE WHEN PEOPLE ARE OVER HERE TRYING TO DISCUSS SOME VERY IMPORTANT MATTERS?

WELL, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. I SHOULD EXPLAIN.

MM...

WHAT'S THE STORY?

I DON'T REALLY GET IT EITHER, KIJIC-CHAN.

None of the tribes here are going to eat you

Are they going to eat us?

Even as middle-schoolers, if we listen calmly, we should be able to understand simple conversation...

Though I can't speak it myself, either

It's basically English, Momoka-san.

No...

n-...

NO, NO! I WASN'T SAYING THAT, I MEANT LIKE... THE ACCENT! Y'KNOW...!?

MY FATHER AND I WERE HER GUESTS HERE FOR A FEW YEARS, BEFORE I CAME TO TENCHI.

THIS IS SUN BURN, DAUGHTER OF THE SHAVAJO TRIBE'S CHIEFTAIN.

SUN, THESE ARE MY FRIENDS.

And,

believe it means something like "blazing sun," Momoka-san

san-ban?

COME ALONG WITH US, WARRIORS OF JAPAN.

THEN, YOUR TIMING COULDN'T BE BETTER.

TRAINING, IS IT?

...SHE SAYS.

?

アイン

SO... THEY'RE ACCOMPANYING ME IN MY TRAINING,

OHH!

Hello-

SO YOU'VE FOUND COMRADES TO SHARE YOUR LABORS WITH. HOW GOOD TO HEAR.

Ohhh

Amazing, aren't they, Wan wan!

To be sure! ^^^^

AND... WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THEM, SUNNY?

...
...
...

BUFFALO...

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN, OTOHA?

IT'S SAID THAT THE SOULS OF THE SHAVAJO'S ANCESTORS RETURN IN THE FORM OF BUFFALO.

THE MOST IMPORTANT FACET OF THAT DUTY BEING...

OUR DUTY IS TO GUIDE THE HERDS THAT COME THROUGH HERE SAFELY TO THE NORTH, ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS.

THAT'S *WAY* TOO MUCH FOR A FOUR-NIGHT, FIVE-DAY TRIP!!!

NO, SUNNY! HOLD ON! THAT'S NOT THE SORT OF TRAINING WE'RE HERE FOR!

HUNT THEM!!?

TO DISCOVER THE BUFFALO HIDDEN AMONGST THE HERD THAT HAVE BEEN POSSESSED BY EVIL SPIRITS, AND HUNT THEM.

THOSE ARE WICKED SOULS WHO LEAD OUR ANCESTORS ASTRAY.

If I recall correctly, the American Bison is a protected species

HUNT?!

?

WE'RE LOOKING AT AN 80% HONORABLE-DEATH RATE, AREN'T WE!!!

THAT'S OUR ONLY WEAPON? SPEARS!?

What's with the subtitles!!?

A SPEAR !!!?

THRUST

URAH URARAH

Step forth. Take your weapon.

YOU'RE RISKING YOUR LIVES HERE!! THINK THIS THROUGH A LITTLE!!!

HOLD... THIS IS YOUR *LIVES!*

AGHH, GEEZ, QUIT COMPLAININ' BOUT EVERY LITTLE THING!

ALL SET TO GO !?!?

Ah, So in essence were hunting for malevolent spirits, huh...!

OUR FATES ARE JUST TIED UP WITH BOVINE CREATURES, I GUESS...

They let me change into my sweats, too

SWOOSH

AWW RIGHT!

LET'S GET THIS CATTLE-DRIVIN' PARTY STARTED.

Well, no... actually the idea in coming here was to work on *mental* strength, not *physical* strength...

But there's no use trying to get that through to the War Hawk party here...

.....

Yeah... I guess you're right...

Hmmm... indeed...

Now then, what's our best angle of attack here?

Let's give it our all, Kijimiya-san!

Even you, Inugami-san

WE CAME HERE TO GET STRONGER, DIDN'T WE?

spark

YOU GOT BEATEN UP BY A PIG DURING WINTER BREAK, AND ALL. I UNDER-STAND.

I KNOW YOU'RE SCARED, KIJICCHAN. IT'S ALL RIGHT TO JUST WATCH.

SO FOR NOW, WHATEVER COMES OUR WAY, WE JUST TAKE IT HEAD ON, RIGHT??

HA HA HA HA HA...

YOU PEOPLE ARE JUST WAY TOO RECKLESS!

...AGAIN WITH YOU... I'M NOT *SCARED!*

I GET IT, I GET IT! THEN, YOU CAN JUST GO OFF SOME-WHERE BY YOURSELF.

I don't really get it, but

You're having fun, huh Otoha!

I DON'T RECALL THAT SHE RESEMBLED HER QUITE SO MUCH BEFORE...

AH... YOU'RE RIGHT.

...

MAN THOUGH, THEY SURE ARE ALIKE... THE PRESIDENT AND HER...

Huh. she is just like the President

Not a thing they don't do grandly

DISTANT RELATIVES OR SOME-THIN'...?

THE BLESSINGS OF THE SUN AND THE EARTH RIDE WITH US.

THEN, LET US GO, WARRIORS OF JAPAN.

Hah!

YIKES!

It's also a possibility that they were connected somehow in a previous existence.

AT THE VERY LEAST, THEY MUST SHARE THE SAME ROOTS!

BOTH JUST DO WHAT THEY WANT!

YANK

I GUESS THEY DO. YOU COULDN'T RIDE THE HORSE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

It appears so...

AH...

THEY REALLY 'SPECT US TO CHASE THOSE THINGS AROUND WITH NO HORSES!?

AND ANYWAY...

THERE SURE WAS! I'D LOVE TO SEE THE TWO OF YOU STANDING SIDE-BY-SIDE.

MY... WAS THERE REALLY SUCH A CLOSE RESEM-BLANCE?

...

YOU DIDN'T WASH THAT PAINT FROM YOUR FACE, AFTER ALL.

AT ANY RATE, IT SEEMS YOU TOOK QUITE A LIKING TO HER.

...

I wish I'd taken some pictures.

GALLANTLY SPURRING ON HER HORSE, CHASING AROUND THOSE BISON...

EVEN THAT LIVELY SPIRIT OF HERS WAS JUST LIKE YOURS, HITSUGI-CHAN.

THAT'S 99.9% LIES.

Why do you look so proud!

I MEAN, I CAN'T RIDE A HORSE. AND AS FOR THINGS LIKE BISON OR CATTLE, I'VE NEVER EVEN TOUCHED ONE.

Let alone hunt them

PBh!

WELL, EVEN IF MY SPIRIT MIGHT BE LIVELY...

CLINK

A SPOILED CITY KID LIKE ME COULDN'T HOPE TO COMPARE TO SOMEONE LIKE THAT.

Funny?

GAH

YOU'RE JUST AS FUNNY AS EVER, SHIZUKU-CHAN!

HA HA HA! BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SAW THAT TEAMWORK IN ACTION.

NOT AT ALL, I SHOULD BE THE ONE EXPRESS-ING-

N-

FATHER.

I KNOW WE AMACHIS ARE A HANDFUL, BUT I HOPE YOU'LL STICK WITH US.

YOUR MOTHER'S ALWAYS DOING SUCH A GREAT JOB, TOO.

THE INSTINCT TO PROTECT ME IS ENCODED INTO SHIZUKU'S DNA.

HA HA HA HA! YOU GUYS ARE NUTS!

Ahhh man...

gets me every time!

I COULDN'T TURN AGAINST YOU EVEN IF I TRIED.

...

AS YOU SEE, OJI-SAMA.

Saying these odd things again

BUT IF YOU CAN FIND SOMEONE YOU CAN BELIEVE IN LIKE THAT,

...IT'S A SCARY THING, TRYING TO TRUST IN SOMEONE COMPLETELY.

THERE'S NO NEED TO MAKE SOME FORMAL REQUEST OF HER.

AND IF THAT PERSON CAN BELIEVE IN YOU TOO...

WELL, I THINK THAT'D MAKE YOU ABOUT INVINCIBLE.

100% TRUE THIS TIME.

IT JUST SEEMED LIKE IT'D BE INTERESTING, IS ALL.

NO,

Nothing grand and noble like that

I guess so, huh!

DAA HA HA HA HA HA!

AND IT'S BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO MAKE PEOPLE LIKE THAT, AND A PLACE FOR THAT,

THAT YOU BROUGHT THAT SYSTEM INTO TENCHI ACADEMY. ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

HITSUGI-CHAN.

BUT, THERE'S NO NEED TO BE INVINCIBLE.

I DO HOPE IT CAN BE A PLACE LIKE YOU SAY.

HOOO

WHY'S JUST THIS GUY ALL CLINGING TO ME LIKE THIS!!?

MOMO

MOMO

WHY!!?

HOLD UP JUST A SEC!!!!

IN OTHER WORDS, TO THE STUPIDEST PEOPLE.

EVIL SPIRITS ARE ATTRACTED TO THE PURER, MORE INNOCENT SOULS.

BE CAREFUL. THAT'S MOST LIKELY ONE OF THE POSSESSED BISON.

I'll back you up, Momoka-san!

For now, let's see if we can subdue the evil spirit!

I NEVER MENTIONED WHETHER I COULD.

I SAID *YOU* COULDN'T.

KIJI!!

WEREN'T YOU JUST SAYING HOW WE COULDN'T RIDE THE HORSES ANYWAY!?!?

YES, INDEED... IT'S A SOMEWHAT UNFORTUNATE SKILL-SET...

YOU HAVE SOME REAL AMAZING ABILITIES, EVEN IF THEY'RE NOT REMOTELY USEFUL AT TENCHI.

YOU'RE HIGH-SPEC IN SOME PRETTY POINTLESS WAYS, HUH, KIJICCHAN!

Do it now!!!

Now, Momoka-san!!

DYAHHH!!!

bu-hroh

Smiiii-te!!!!

Do what now !?!?

IF YOU JUST STOP IT WITHOUT KILLING IT, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.

...IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR IMPER-FECTIONS, THAT YOU CAN BE SAVED BY SOMEONE ELSE.

IT'S ALREADY OUT COLD...

CAN WE JUST TAKE IT IN ALIVE LIKE THIS?

Oh, no! I could only summon the power because everyone was there with me.

Really gotta stop repeating this same pattern

?

Ha-h

You'd be just fine by yourself, Wanko, without any of our help..

Ha-h

WE'RE DOING MORE OF THIS!!!?

One should always carry one's responsibilities through to the end, no?

...SHE SAYS.

ALL RIGHT!

LET'S MOVE ON TO THE NEXT POSSESSED ONE.

A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN SAVED—

THEY LEFT.

Phooey

...

SINCE THINGS WERE SO NOISY AROUND ME.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...

Kuunage

...

...fidget

fidget

fidget

...

Plop

...

Ghost Blade

bo-dump

bo-dump

Just a bit longer...

...HOPES TO BECOME STRONGER, THAT SHE MAY SAVE SOMEONE HERSELF.

Just a bit

Just a bit

はねて×ブレード⑬

It's a pity I really do think this style can be appreciated by anyone

Eh

ARE YOU SURE?

WE'D BETTER GO. IT'S NOT OPEN THAT MUCH LONGER.

IT'S NO USE, SENPAI. THOSE TWO ARE WORSE WITH THIS KIND OF THING THAN WITH ANYTHING ELSE.

Though Yuuho might be another story

AH HA HA... THANKS FOR DROPPING BY.

AYANA.

GOOD LUCK.

WE'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU.

WELL THEN,

WE'LL BE SPLITTING UP HERE.

WHATTT?

GOING BACK SEPARATELY, EVEN THOUGH WE'RE HEADED TO THE SAME PLACE?

Geez you don't have to hate me that much

NO, NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT! IT'S JUST THAT TODAY'S THE LAST DAY...

Ah,

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN COMING TOO? WE CAN GO TOGETHER!

THEY'RE DOING AN ART SHOW NEAR HERE, THEY SAY IT'S REALLY SOMETHING...

WELLLLL... hA hA... THAT SORT OF THING'S A LITTLE...

Enh?

Right?

GOOD FOR YOU, HUH, AYANA! NOW YOU'D REALLY BETTER DO YOUR...

OOH ... HAVEN'T SEEN SOMEYA-SAN LOOK SO GENTLE IN A WHILE.

pop

Her being like that, just brings it on even worse...

...No... well...

WHY ARE YOU EVEN MORE SCARED THAN USUAL!?

WhOA!

You really have it rough, huh!!

SHIVER

trmble trmble

shiver shiver shiver

Mm, mm!

I'm at least capable of saying that much

YOU'VE DEVEL-OPED A CRYING HABIT, SENPAI...

This is fine too! Just a little bit at a time!

YUKA-RI...

YOU'RE GROWING UP!!

ONE WHO WISHES TO MEET THEM HEAD-ON WITH THE FULLEST SUPREME FORCE OF HER POWER...

ONE WHO KNOWS HER OWN IMPERFECTIONS, AND RESOLVES TO OVERCOME THEM...

IT IS PEOPLE LIKE THAT, ABOVE THOSE WHO ARE PERFECT, I WANT TO STAND BESIDE.

THAT SOUL IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL, AND MOST PRECIOUS.

AT YOUR CORE, THERE'S NOBODY IN THE WORLD QUITE LIKE YOU.

...SURE ENOUGH, NOBODY'S HITSUGI-CHAN BUT HITSUGI-CHAN.

IF THERE WAS ONE PERSON WHO DID RESEMBLE YOU, IT WAS YOUR MOTHER.

THAT I EAGERLY AWAIT EVEN MY OWN DEFEAT.

IT IS FOR THE SAKE OF STANDING BESIDE THEM

I'M NOT THE ATHLETIC TYPE AT ALL, SO I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT...

SHE SAID THE SAME KINDS OF THINGS YOU DO NOW.

YOU'RE SPARKLING MORE THAN I'VE EVER SEEN.

RIGHT NOW, THERE'S SOMEBODY YOU'RE THINKING MIGHT COME BEAT YOU, RIGHT?

SHE'S QUITE CLOSE.

...

THAT'S RIGHT.

Don't make a ruckus about every last animal here!! Just calm down and look at them!!

pen pen pen

So cuteee!!

LOOK HOW CLOSE TOGETHER THE PENGONES ARE, MASTER!!

WhOO!!

SO CLOSE!!!

We'll get yelled at by some weird old man again

These are youngsters less than a year old. Please don't do anything to startle them

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

We could use them as bowling pins!!

TREMBLE

FLAP FLAP

Torpedo, Inarin! Torpedo!

They really swim fast

HUH...

EHHH? BUT THEY'RE CUTE, AREN'T THEY? THE PENGUINS.

And Sae!! What are you doing getting all into it too!?

... Peh.

Noisy bunch

Don't mix in with the brats!

IF WE DID, OUR FIRST TARGET WOULD BE *YOU.*

ARE YOU TWO LOOKING TO FORM AN ASSASSIN-SISTERS TEAM...?

.....
.....
.....

How did you cloak your presence like that ?

IT'S FINE. ONEE CAN BE LIKE THAT TODAY.

WHO'S THE ONE TAKING WHO HERE, AGAIN?

SHE SURE SEEMS RELAXED...

SO THIS IS FINE FOR HER TODAY.

ONEE'S THE SORT OF PERSON WHO CAN'T MAKE HER OWN PLACE TO ESCAPE TO, SO SHE'S STRESSED ALL THE TIME.

SO DON'T JUST GET CODDLED BY HER. SHOW A LITTLE CONCERN SOMETIMES.

THE REASON SHE BECAME LIKE THAT WAS HALF FOR YOUR SAKE, AKIRA,

While I'm still free.

Maybe I should go there with you, Akira.

WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE SITTING AROUND THINKING NOW.

tap

I KNOW THAT BUT... MUCH.

What do you say? Do you want me to come?

I think I could be pretty useful to you.

WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE FORWARD UNTIL WE TAKE TENCHI FOR OURSELVES.

ANYTHING ELSE COMES AFTER THAT.

NEITHER SAE NOR I...

HEARING IT FROM AN OUTSIDER KINDA DRIVES IT HOME...

...

I guess so, huh.?

WHUMP

But especially you!!

Idiots! You're both idiots!

WHAT'S THE MEANING IN SETTLING EVERYTHING WITH A *SWORD!*

ONEE'S AN IDIOT TOO, IN THAT REGARD.

YOU'RE REALLY AN IDIOT.

...

SHE WON'T LOSE.

WELL, FINE BY ME.

WHETHER I'M AN IDIOT OR WHATEVER ELSE...

I JUST HAVE TO WIN.

HITSUGI-SAN...

...

WHAT IS IT, SHIZUKU? OUT OF NOWHERE...

EVEN IF SHE *WANTS* TO LOSE, SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO IT.

HITSUGI-SAN HAS THE INSTINCT TO WIN ENCODED INTO HER DNA.

SLAM

"Slam"?

NICE HIT, SHIZUKU... NICE BLOW... THAT ONE GOT ME RIGHT IN THE PAUNCH.

.....NO, EXCUSE US...

HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HA

rattle rattle rattle rattle

HEH HEH

.....
.....
.....

Always at the weirdest times!!

SO...

Wh- WhY ARE YOU BOTh LAUGhING !?!?

BUT I THINK THAT'S BEYOND EVEN ME.

I APPRECIATE YOUR FAITH IN ME, FATHER.

Sigh...

I'M REMEMBERING A BIT OF THAT OLD FEELING OF ALIENATION...

NO NO, IT'D BE NO SWEAT.

RIGHT?

IF SHIZUKU BELIEVES IN ME, I FEEL LIKE I REALLY CAN BECOME INVINCIBLE.

TO BE SURE, FATHER...

oh yeah,

THAT REMINDS ME. I BROUGHT A NEW WING...

FOR OUR HITSUGI-CHAN TO FLY WITH.

I THINK YOU COULD PROBABLY FLY, IF YOU SET YOUR MIND TO IT.

I'M SORRY YOU'RE ALWAYS GETTING THE FINAL TEST VERSION.

IT SHOULD FIT YOU DOWN TO LESS THAN A MILLIMETER.

WE WERE ABLE TO IMPROVE THE STRENGTH AND FLEXIBILITY WHILE MAKING IT LIGHTER AT THE SAME TIME.

NOT AT ALL.

THIS TECHNOLOGY SHOULDN'T BE SOMETHING MADE ONLY FOR ME.

...

THIS SHOULD BE MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR MY DUEL.

THANK YOU, FATHER.

THE SHAPE HASN'T BEEN ALTERED AT ALL, SO IT SHOULD FEEL THE SAME PUTTING IT ON.

Quh clinging to me!

Hgah

THE DEATH, EVEN, OF MY STUDENTS' HOPES AND WISHES...

I'LL HAVE TO TURN MYSELF INTO A DEMON.

IF DEFEAT WILL MEAN THE DEATH OF TENCHI—

Mastermmr! Let's go see the crabs! The craaa—bs!

Dwoh hoh!

MERELY MAKING MYSELF INVINCIBLE WON'T BE ENOUGH.

What're you, a demon!!?

Heh-

Hah-

Hah-

How long're you gonna keep running me around!?!?

KEEP ACTING AS BAIT FOR US, WARRIOR OF JAPAN.

...SHE SAYS.

COME, THE NEXT HERD IS APPROACHING.

Just so there's no confusion, my name really does just mean "sunburn."
Oh...
..Is that right?

Trivia

Page 71

Manitou: A form of spiritual power present in some Native American thought systems.

Page 76

San-ban: Meaning "number three" in Japanese.

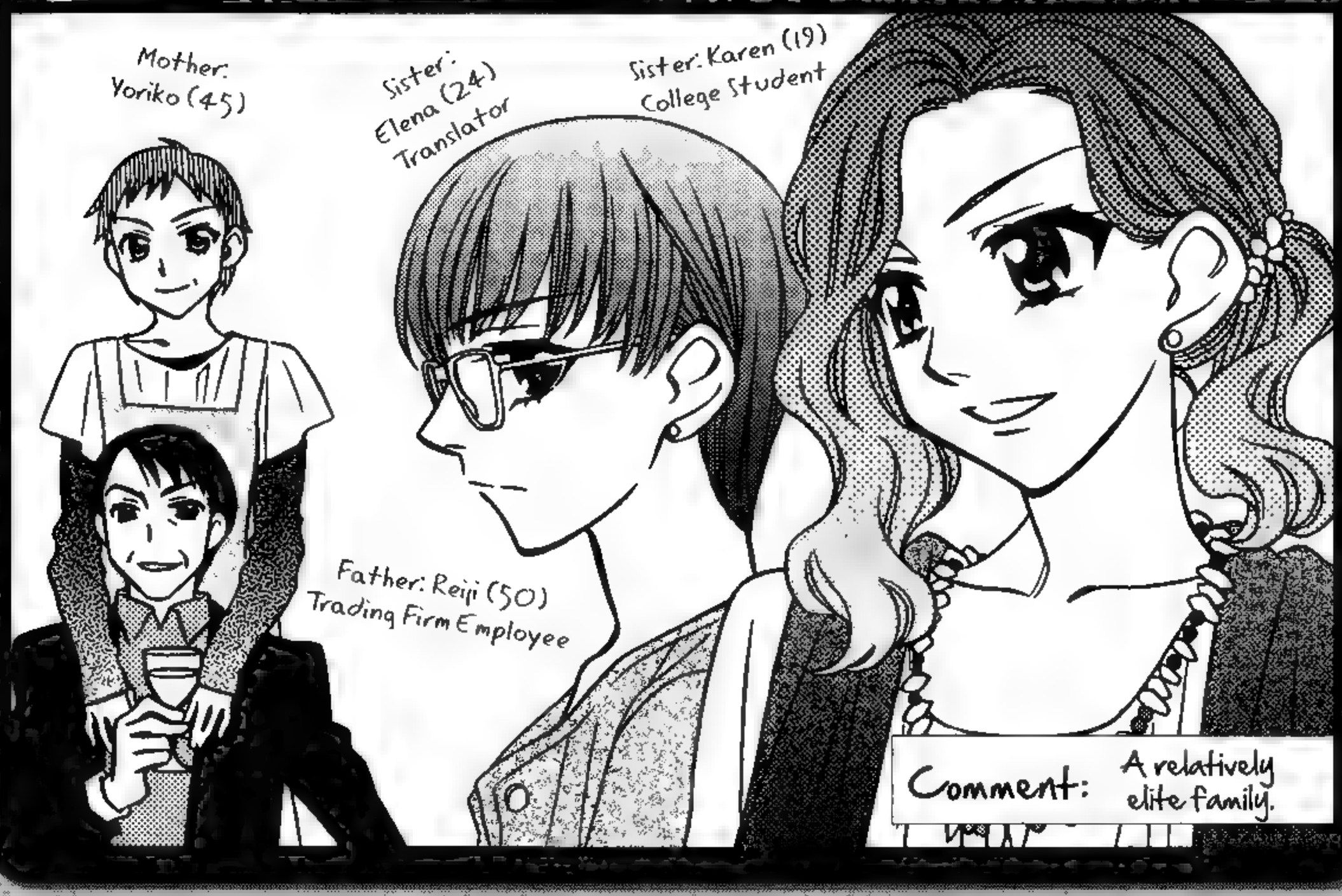
Page 92

Tremble tremble: This panel originally contained a throwaway reference to Russian figure skater Evgeni Plushenko, playing off the sound effect "puru puru" (his name pronounced in Japanese is "Purushenko").

Swordbearer Family Survey

HIGH SCHOOL, YEAR 1, CLASS B

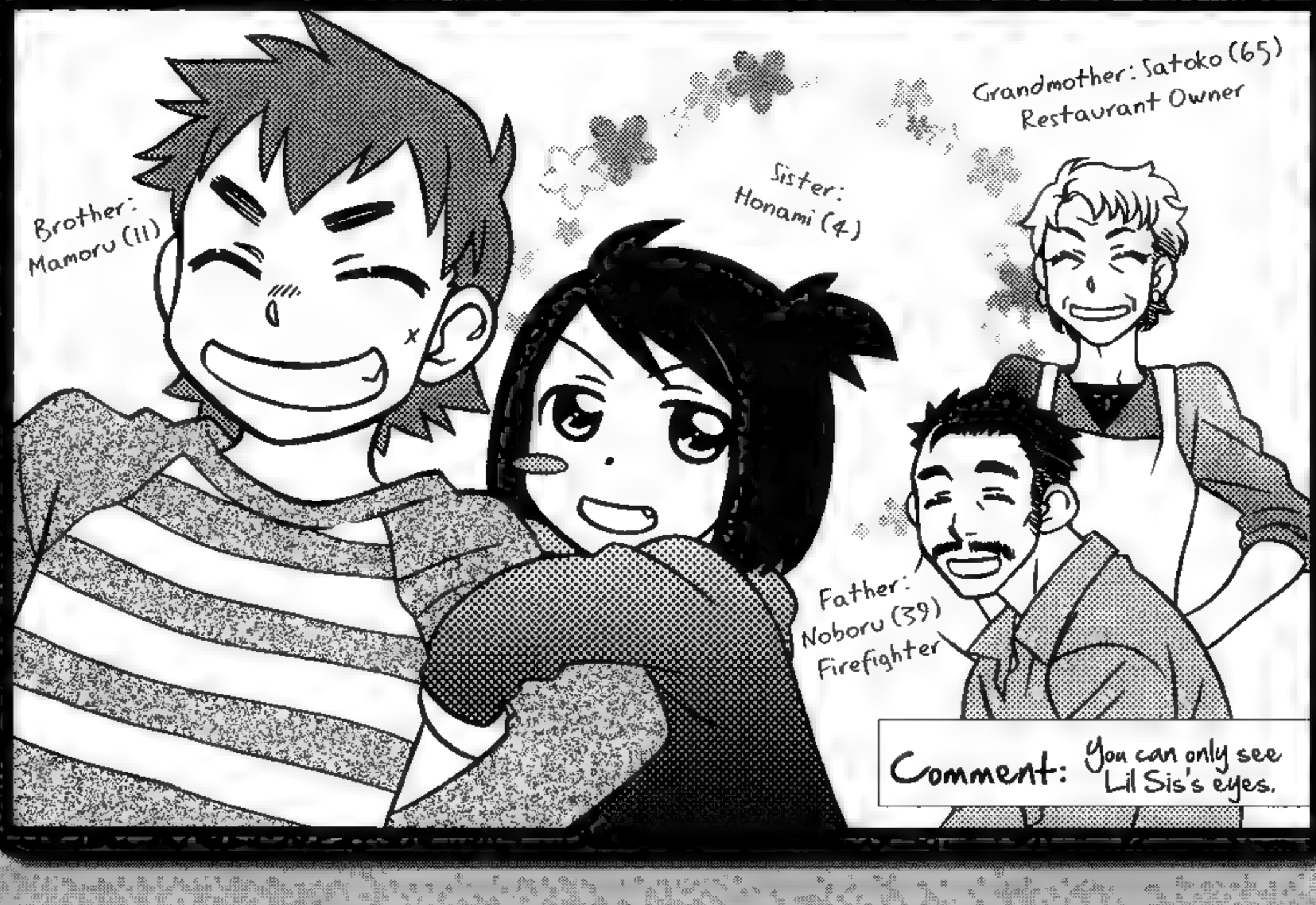
HOSHIKAWA CLAIRE


Mother: Yoriko (45)
Sister: Elena (24) Translator
Sister: Karen (19) College Student
Father: Reiji (50) Trading Firm Employee
Comment: A relatively elite family.

Swordbearer Family Survey

HIGH SCHOOL, YEAR 1, CLASS F

TSUKISHIMA MINORI


Brother: Mamoru (11)
Sister: Honami (4)
Grandmother: Satoko (65) Restaurant Owner
Father: Noboru (39) Firefighter
Comment: You can only see Lil Sis's eyes.

#EXTRA

Real Idiot Tag

I DE-CLINE.
DON'T HOLD BACK. I WANT YOU TO HAVE IT.
NO, THANK YOU.
WELL, WHATEVER. JUST TAKE IT.
PUSH
PUSH
PUSH
No, no.
SHE'S NOT SALTED SALMON FOR A NEW YEAR'S PRESENT, YOU KNOW...
Really feel a bit sorry for her
THIS IS YOURS, RIGHT? I'M RETURNING IT.
MET YOU AT A GOOD TIME.
YES? WHAT IS IT?
...
...
DAMN THING FELL ASLEEP HALFWAY HOME...
デン
...NO, IT ISN'T MINE.

UNTIL THE SUMMIT BATTLE, WE DON'T WANT TO ASSOCIATE WITH ANYONE.

GET HER TO KEEP AWAY FROM US, IF YOU WOULD.

NO... PLEASE DON'T HANG HER ON ME...

ANYWAY, I'M GIVING HER BACK.

'K!

I REALLY WISH YOU WOULDN'T TREAT ME LIKE A COATRACK...

AND ALSO...

...THOUGH BY THAT TIME... I DOUBT THERE'LL BE ANYONE LEFT WHO WANTS TO SEE OUR FACES.

Daaa dj-dj- daaa Da da dj-dj- dee- dj- daaa

What the hell is this!?

MINE? I NEVER SET IT TO A RINGTONE LIKE THAT...

HUH?

ISN'T THAT YOUR PHONE? AKIRA,

That's the *Kin-nikuman* theme...

BEEP!

Musc-

GO

GO

Kinni-kuman ...

Ha!

Doo Do Doo Do

d- Da da dj- dj- da

Doo Do Doo Do

d- di dj-di dee- dj da

Daaa de- de- daaa

Hoh!

dj- dj- dee- dj- daaa

It seems your heart has already flown on ahead to the Summit Battle, but...

There is one last thing I wanted to tell you.

How have you been since we parted, Mikado-san?

It's Hitsugi.

You, huh!!!

I don't recall giving you my number!!

And don't just change my phone settings on your own!!

Grr

RIGHT...

Thank you!

YEAH, GOT IT...

You look cute in your everyday clothes, Onee tama

YEAH ...?

Huh?

...WHAT IS IT? BEING ALL FORMAL

... ...

THOUGHT SO... IT WAS STARTING OFF A BIT STRANGE.

Sure enough, huh ? Ah ha ha ha

AHH... Been a while

.....
.....

IT'S A SIDE CHAPTER, SHE SAYS...!!!

jam

#EXTRA

Real Idiot Tag

TW-TWEE

TW-TWEE

NOW THEN...

WAKING ME UP AT 5 IN THE MORNING THE DAY AFTER I GET BACK FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY... ALWAYS THE PAMPERED KID, HITSUGI-CHAN!

Ha ha ha ha...

LET US ENJOY OUR FIRST GAME OF CATCH IN A GREAT WHILE.

ALL RIGHT, SOUNDS GOOD. LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

SLAP

NOW'S OUR CHANCE FOR SOME BONDING, FATHER.

SOME FREE TIME HAS OPENED UP UNEX-PECTEDLY.

HERE IT COMES.

KA PO——————W...

Ha ha ha ha... That's my Hitsugi-chan.
SSSSSSSSS
POUND POUND
HERE, FATHER, HERE!
THROW IT BACK, FATHER!
The sound reaches you a few seconds afterwards.

HOLD ON A SEC, HITSUGI-CHAN.

I DON'T THINK IT'S THAT SERENE.

LET'S KEEP IT GOING, FATHER!!!

HOW-EVER,

HAPPI-NESS IS A FLEETING THING.

WHAP

I'M IN HIGH SPIRITS, I ADMIT.

HEH HEH.

BUT IT'S NOT THE WORST IDEA TO GO A LITTLE EASIER NOW AND THEN.

YOU ALWAYS GO FULL FORCE AT EVERYTHING YOU DO. THAT'S ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT YOU.

IT'S MERELY THE JOY OF BEING ABLE TO PLAY SERENELY TOGETHER WITH YOU LIKE THIS.

LIKE ABOUT THE STUDENTS AT YOUR SCHOOL, SAY.

THAT'S RIGHT, HOW ABOUT WE CHAT A LITTLE AS WE THROW?

FOR EXAM-PLE...

WELL THEN...

YES... THAT SOUNDS NICE.

HEA-

Ooh ha ha ha ha!

A NICE GAME OF CATCH

WITH SOME BRIEF, CAREFREE WORDS IN SUMMARY!!

DUT-

SSSS

La PO

W

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I ASK HER, SHE JUST WON'T CLEAN IT UP.

And when we're moving to a new room pretty soon...

TODAY FOR SURE, I'M FORCIBLY REMOVING ALL OF KUGA-SAN'S PERSONAL STUFF!

Toy in a Can

TSUYAMA LION LADY

BLOW THE OCARINA

PIYDAY

AUNT AKI'S 48 TIPS ON

Yuuho's Bed

I GOT PERMISSION FROM YUUHO, TOO!

Jun's weirdo stuff?

Sure, just throw it all right out.

- Masuda Kei
  Now High School,
  First Year • Rank B

OKAY!

Shizuma Yuuho (presently in hospital)
Her roommate

MAYBE I CAN SELL THEM AT A USED BOOKSTORE, AND USE THE MONEY TO BUY HER CANDY OR SOMETHING...

flap

THE EXPENSIVE-LOOKING PHOTO COLLECTIONS... MMN... WHAT DO I DO WITH THEM?

flap

THE MAGAZINES I'LL TREAT AS REGULAR GARBAGE.

Ough

I NEED TO BE HEART-LESS ABOUT THIS AND MOVE RIGHT THROUGH THEM.

Not Particularly Heartless

IF SOMEBODY CAME IN HERE RIGHT NOW, I'D HAVE A REAL CRISIS ON MY HANDS...

Before I can throw it all out.

Hug Pillow

I'VE JUST BEEN SPREADING THESE ALL AROUND MY ROOM WITHOUT REALLY THINKING ABOUT IT, BUT...

THESE AREN'T THINGS A GIRL JUST BEGINNING HIGH SCHOOL SHOULD OWN, ARE THEY...?

I'M NOT ALL THAT COMFORTABLE HANDLING A LOT OF THIS STUFF...

And anyway

"Virility Medicine" ?

Ermm. dump out the contents and recycle the bottle, I guess

Idol Figurine

Santa Fe photobook

Night Vision Binoculars

Western Goods

Speed Learning

Ergonomic Breast Mousepad

THE IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE

Summer Swimsuit Bonanza

Sexy Photo Collection

Showa Erotica

Showa-Era Erotic Film DVD Collection

Viper Extract

Son of Zeus

Cobra Extract

Hercules

Monarch Strength

Manly Spirit and Vigor

DRAGON KING

FIRST I SHOULD LOCK THE DOOR TO THE ROOM!

WAIT... THE DOOR!

F...

FOR NOW, JUST TRY TO PUSH IT MORE INTO THE CORNER...

Wait...

JUST BEING SEEN THROWING THIS OUT WOULD BE A MAJOR INCIDENT...

WAH HAAA AA!!

OPPAI

VIRILITY MEDICINE

EROTIC FIGURINE

EROTIC MAGAZINE

YOU DIDN'T ANSWER, SO I LET MYSELF IN...

SORRY.

Classmate A

THE CLASSMATE

Following this, Masuda's room began to be referred to as "Pandora's Box."

MEI.

- Himuro Meiko
  Now High School, Third Year • Rank A

- Ju Ensuu
  Same as at right

I DON'T NEED ANY. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

IT'S LUNCH. WHERE'S YOUR FOOD?

WHAT IS IT, ENSUU?

If possible I'd like to spend this entire day just reading.

That's right.

...It's books before food for you, Mei?

...

Then we're both fine, right? Don't worry about it.

I caught a turtle-dove back there.

I just don't feel like moving right now because I'm concentrating. I've got a bottle of water, so I'm fine.

It's not like I do this every day, right?

Annoying...

One cannot fight on books alone.

I don't think you eat enough.

...

Yes. I understand.

Don't say anything more to me until I'm finished reading.

For the time being, could you just not disturb me?

drip

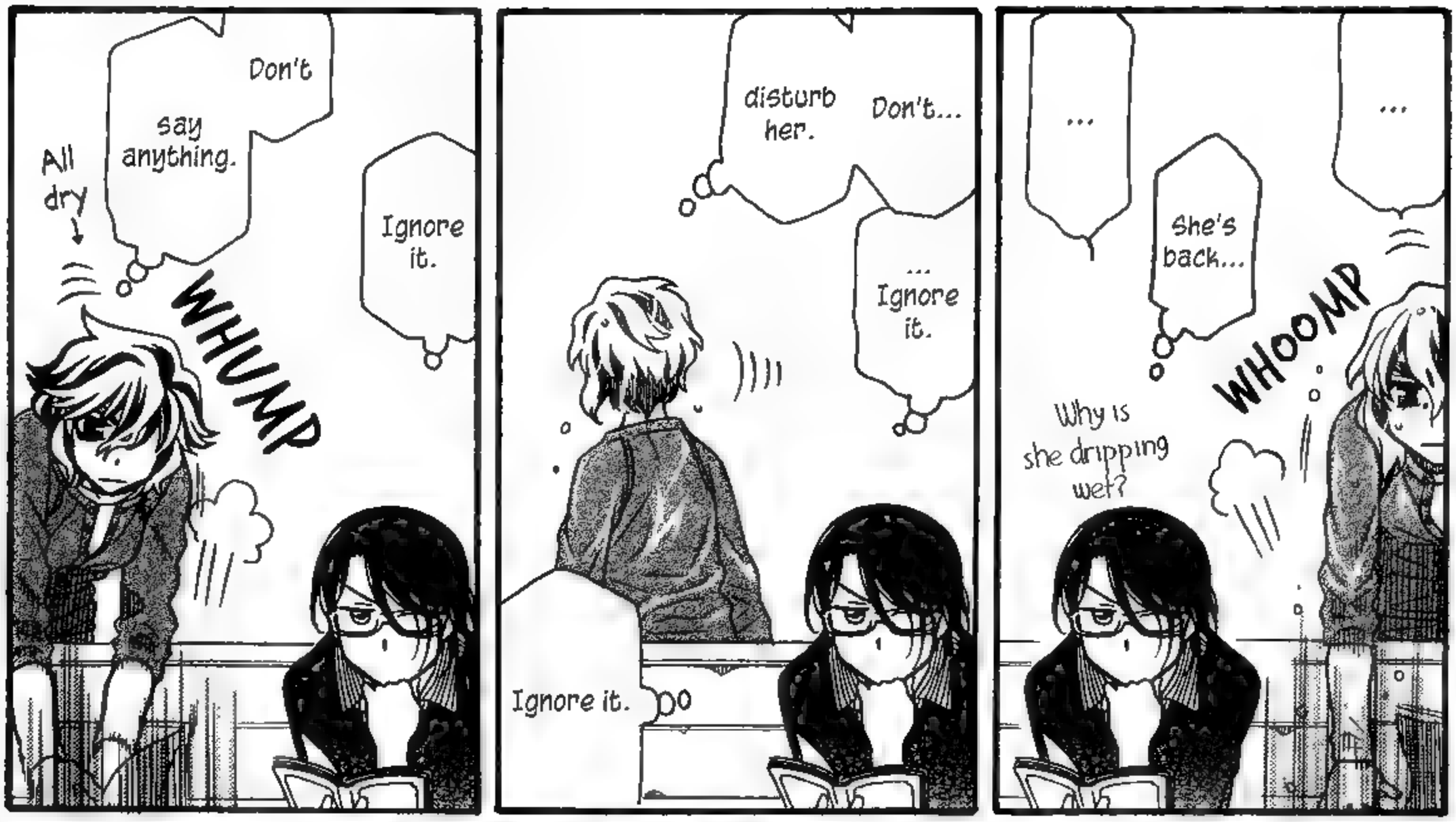
drip

There she goes...

She comes pestering me when she gets bored.

Hoo

はなてメブレード⑬



- Kikkawa Tsukasa Now High School, Year 2 • Rank D Himuro's cousin on her mother's side

Beasts show kindness too sometimes.

THIS DINER'S "SWEETS VIKING" BUFFET SPECIAL IS ONLY AVAILABLE DURING LUNCH HOURS.
HOLD ON. IT'S NOT QUITE THAT SIMPLE.
THAT MEANS YOU ONLY HAVE 2 HOURS. YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK QUICKLY AND REALLY PACK IT IN.
NWA HA HA HA! WELL THAT'S NO PROBLEM AT ALL! LEAVE IT TO ME!!

- Hoshikawa Claire
  Now High School, Second Year • Rank D

- Tsukishima Minori
  Same as above

- Tonami Shuu
  The same grade
- Rank S

MY BROTHER'S GIRLFRIEND RUNS THIS PLACE, BUT THERE WAS SOME ACCIDENT AND SHE GOT HERSELF SENT TO THE HOSPITAL.

YOU CAN TELL JUST BY LOOKING, CAN'T YOU?

AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING HERE?

NOW THEY'RE SHORT ON PEOPLE, AND THEY GOT ME TO FILL IN.

beep beep beep

Tonami

SO?

WHA...

WHY-

TONAMI SHUU!!!

OHH?

D's Tonami!

WHAT, IT'S YOU TWO? THE STUDENT COUNCIL'S EXES. YOU'RE NICE AND TIGHT WITH EACH OTHER, HUH?

DON'T TALK ABOUT US LIKE EX-GIRL-FRIENDS!

カッチーン

GREH...

IF YOU'RE JUST GETTING THE BUFFET SPECIAL I'LL TREAT YOU. IT'S DIRT CHEAP, ANYHOW.

WHAT'LL YOU HAVE?

GO AHEAD AND ORDER ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE. ANYTHING AT ALL.

MINORI.

THEN, WE'LL HAVE TWO OF THOS-

Ohhhh, YOU'RE A NICE ONE!!

WAHOOOO

No way am I taking charity from a current Whiteshirt of all people.

GO AHEAD. KEEP THE ORDERS COMING.

I CHANGED MY MIND.

?

BUT CLAIRE... YOU SAID WE HAD TO GET THE BUFFET OR...

NN?

OF COURSE. I'M A FORMER WHITESHIRT, AFTER ALL.

REAL GENEROUS PARTNER YOU GOT, HUH?

RIGHT, RIGHT, CALM DOWN.

Most of those aren't real menu items

Hmph

I WANT STEAK AND MEAT AND RICE AND YAKINIKU AND PORK AND BEEF AND GNU AND THE NIGHT AND THE MUSIC...

Then... Then...

I CAN!? I REALLY CAN!?

6A—NG

HELL YEAH!! YOU'RE ANARCHY NO MATTER WHAT YOU'RE WEARING!!!

NANCYYYYYY!!!

Nancy! FOOD! FOOD! LIL BRO LIL SIS Nancy! LIL SIS Nancy! LIL SIS

Irasshai-mase!

AHHHH!

- Shidou Misako
  The same grade • Rank S

I CAME TO DELIVER AN ANTHEM IN HONOR OF YOUR TIGHTNESS!!!

No, you just came looking to sponge!!

JA-JWANG

Food! Food!

God damn it! Sid!! What do you think you're doing here!? Go home!!

MAN, THIS LUNCH SPECIAL IS KICKASS! UNBEATABLE!!

DUMBASS! OBVIOUSLY YOU'LL HAVE TO REPLACE IT! IT'S ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT, ISN'T IT!?

It's great, Nancy!

This cake is great!

This is tasty.

Hurry up and eat and go home!!

clunk

YOUR "NAUGHTY KIDS' SPECIAL" PLATE.

EAT UP, SQUIRTS! EAT TILL IT'S ALL GONE!!

THE LUNCH SPECIAL COMES WITH A DESSERT BUFFET!? THAT'S MAD HYPED-UP!!!

WHAT'LL THE OTHER CUSTOMERS DO IF YOU EAT THE ENTIRE BUFFET!?

clunk

YOUR JUMBO STEAK AND FRIED ASSORTMENT.

CHRIST... FINE, BUT DON'T ASK FOR ANYTHING MORE THAN THE LUNCH SPECIAL!

WAHOO! BIG UP, NANCY!!

clunk

YOUR CHEESEBURGER.

...AFTER THIS, JUST GET THE BUFFET.

And we're splitting this, got it?

CAN I TACK ANOTHER ORDER ON THERE, CLAIRE?

HOO HOO, MAN! THIS IS TRUE HAPPINESS!

twing twang

Hungry, hungry life of glooooo-ryyyy...

Shaddup! Just eat quietly!

It's great

Nancy, it's great!

This is getting ridiculous

All that show was for nothing.

OF LOVABLE STUDENTS LIKE THOSE.

TENCHI IS ALWAYS FULL

SO, AS YOU SEE...

THAT'S RIGHT.

MORE FUN THAN ONE DAY'S WORTH OF TALKING CAN ENCOMPASS.

I SEE...

EVEN FROM JUST A SUMMARY, IT SOUNDS LIKE TONS OF FUN.

INCIDENTALLY... YOU ENDED UP GOING FULL-THROTTLE ALL THE WAY, HUH?

IT SEEMS I'VE GOTTEN TO THE POINT WHERE I CAN'T GIVE LESS THAN MAXIMUM EFFORT.

...YES, I SUPPOSE I DID.

I guess...

THAT'S WHAT YOU'D CALL A "CHICKEN-OR-EGG" PROBLEM, HUH?

Ho-ron

Dum-my

SINCE IN ANY CASE THERE IS NO LACK OF THAT ATTITUDE IN THOSE AROUND ME.

When is it all right to interrupt this father/daughter bonding session...?

HAAA HA HA! I'LL DIE, HITSUGI-CHAN!

This is what happens when I leave them to themselves

THIS TIME I'LL HIT YOU SOME FLY BALLS!

LET'S CONTINUE OUR LITTLE CHAT, FATHER.

NOW THEN.

STAGGER

STAGGER

All "Adult-Oriented" (Pile #1 of 3)

×HAYATE
CROSS
BLADE×

#75

Let Idiots Be

NO... I MEAN... OF COURSE I WOULD. THIS IS WHAT I DECIDED, RIGHT?

Why is it a surprise...?

I THINK IT'S MORE OF A SURPRISE THAT *YOU* WOULD REALLY COME.

WHAT, YOU...

SERIOUSLY CAME HERE?

SURE I CAME.

NOT REALLY.

WHAT COULD HE HAVE TO SAY AT THIS POINT?

DID HE SAY ANY-THING?

WHAT ABOUT YOUR FATHER?

HE STILL HASN'T PROMISED YOU A THING.

THAT'S WHAT YOU'D CALL BEING RECKLESS, ISN'T IT?

SINCE YOU SAID YOU WANTED ME TO.

I DON'T CARE IF I'M BEING RECKLESS, OR BEING SELFISH.

MY OLD MAN WANTS SOMETHING.

AND RIGHT NOW, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN GET IT FOR HIM.

WE DON'T NEED TO MAKE ANY PROMISE.

...

IN NOT BEING BORN A BOY.

I FINALLY FOUND SOME KIND OF MEANING

RYOUICHI JUST LAUGHED AT THIS WHOLE THING.

AND HOW ABOUT *YOU*? WHAT'S *YOUR* DEAL?

I had no such dream!! What is this, elementary school!?!?

I DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FULFILL YOUR DREAM OF MAKING 100 FRIENDS.

WHETHER YOU FOUND MEANING OR NOT... COMING TO A SCHOOL JUST FOR THE SAKE OF DESTROYING IT...

Nothing's a shame!

What a shame.

Aww

Heh!

EVEN IF YOU'RE JUST KILLING TIME, IF YOU LEND ME A HAND HERE...

I'LL SHOW YOU THE BEST SCENERY IN THIS WHOLE PLACE, SAE.

I DON'T REALLY GET YOU, BUT...

WELL, NO MATTER. ...

HMMPH

"BECAUSE RYOUICHI-SAN LAUGHED AT IT"... I GUESS YOU MIGHT SAY?

YES. WELL...

#75 Let Idiots Be

murmur
murmur
murmur
murmur
"GREAT SCENERY."
...
NOT SURPRISING THAT WORD WOULD GET OUT BY THE DAY OF THE FIGHT.
Yeah.
OBVIOUSLY THEY'D REACT LIKE THIS.
murmur
EVERYBODY STANDING AROUND HUDDLED IN GROUPS STARING AT US ISN'T SUCH A BAD SIGHT.
WELL, TO BE SURE...
murmur
TO THE STUDENTS, WE'RE NOTHING BUT A COUPLE OF VILLAINS.
OUR DEMAND FOR THIS SUMMIT BATTLE IS FULL TRANSFER OF ALL AUTHORITY OVER TENCHI.
NOW THEY ALL KNOW...
AND THAT ONCE IT'S IN THE MIKADO FAMILY'S HANDS, THE SCHOOL'LL BE IMMEDIATELY SHUT DOWN.
Say what you like, that's just too much
What!? How selfish
She'd go that far?
For real?

NO NEED TO APOLO-GIZE.

I'M ONLY SURPRISED YOU WERE THICKHEADED ENOUGH TO NOT REALIZE THAT TILL NOW.

IT DIDN'T GO THE WAY I PROMISED.

SORRY 'BOUT THAT...

THE SCENERY WE'LL BE LOOKING AT FROM HERE ON WILL BE ALL THAT GOOD.

ALL THE REST OF THE STUDENTS CAN DO IS PRAY THE PRESIDENT HAS THEIR BACK.

TRUE ENOUGH.

Yeah you said it

EITHER WAY IT GOES, DOESN'T SEEM LIKE...

IT WAS JUST CHILDISH SELFISH-NESS TO BEGIN WITH,

SO LET'S GO OUT WITH ONE LAST, BIG TANTRUM.

.....

WELL, YEAH...

IF NOTHING ELSE, GUESS YOU'D CALL IT "APPROPRIATE" SCENERY.

THIS KIND OF-

murmur

murmur

UWhOOO!!! IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME, MASTER! hOW I MISSED ThIS WARMTh!!

I NEEDED TO SEE YOU SO BAD I WAS ShAKING!!

OH DEAR...

BWEHH-!!!

MASTER RRRR!!!

IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A WEEK!! THAT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU SHAKE!?

CUT IT... OUT... YOU LITTLE... YOU'RE SUFFO-CATING ME!!

THE SUMMIT BATTLE'S TODAY!! YOU FORGOT !!?

To the stadium!!

Ahh!

WHERE YA GOIN', MASTER?

.....

.....

.....

MIDGET WEIRDO...

Ôoooh...

TOSS

THIS LITTLE ROUTINE ENDS TODAY TOO, GOT ME?

...

THINK THIS THROUGH, WOULD YOU?

Man that's loud

OH, YEAH.

THAT'S RIGHT. AND I CAME TO CHEER YOU ON, MASTER!

IF WE WIN, TENCHI'S GOING TO DISAPPEAR. WHY WOULD YOU ROOT FOR US?

WHATEVER'S GONNA HAPPEN'S GONNA HAPPEN, RIGHT?

I DID THINK IT THROUGH, BUT...

SO IF I DON'T CHEER FOR THE PEOPLE I WANT TO CHEER FOR, THAT'S JUST MY LOSS.

WHOEVER'S BETTER WILL WIN.

YOU SURE GOT IT-NICE, HAPPY LITTLE SQUIRTS LIKE YOU!

...

COMING OUT ON A SUNDAY JUST TO ROOT FOR THE BAD GUYS, HUH?

AH...

HUH!?

JUST NOW.

I SAW A BIT OF IT.

?

WHAT? WHAT IS IT?

keeya—↑

That "great scenery"

GWIB EM hELL, MASWER!!!

GWOOD LWUCK!!

WHAT DID YOU SE—

Shaddup, Midget Weirdo! Mooo-ron, mooo-ron!!!

Vu Vu Vu

Hm, mm!

TURNS OUT NOT TO BE SO HARD TO SEE AFTER ALL.

see what? What are you talking about?

I SAID SHUT UP

ALWAYS TRYING TO GET TO IT THE ROUND-ABOUT WAY... WE REALLY ARE JUST A COUPLE OF KIDS.

THE PRESIDENT'S FIGHTING AGAINST OUR TWO YOUNG LADS SOON, AIN'T SHE? YOU DON'T WANT TO WATCH?

DON'T JUST LIE DOWN WHEREVER YOU WANT. IT'S BAD MANNERS.

NAGI.

Yoof!

NAH, NOT REALLY INTERESTED.

crack

CAN'T THEY TAKE MY SITUATION HERE INTO ACCOUNT A LITTLE?

WHAT ARE THEY THINKING, STAKING THE ENTIRE SCHOOL ON A SINGLE DUEL?

PROBABLY BECAUSE SHE HASN'T EVEN CONSIDERED THAT SHE MIGHT LOSE.

THE PRESIDENT'S GOTTA BE CRAZY. WHY WOULD SHE ACCEPT TERMS LIKE THAT?

AND I MEAN, WHAT'RE THE NEW FRESHMEN GONNA DO? THEY JUST GOT TO THIS SCHOOL, AND IT DISBANDS?

YEAH?

DAD.

I'VE BEEN THINKING IT THROUGH, BUT...

YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO SEE IT?

IT'S A FIGHT BETWEEN THE TWO TOP PAIRS HERE, RIGHT?

WHATEVER HAPPENS, HAPPENS.

WELL, THAT STILL DEPENDS ON WHAT HAPPENS TODAY, BUT...

THIS IS NONSENSE, TO JUST KEEP PIDDLING AROUND LIKE THIS WHILE MEANWHILE THE SCHOOL'S GETTING CLOSED DOWN.

YOU JUST BE MY SHINYUU, DAD.

Wait

ARE YOU SAYING THAT SERIOUSLY ...?

NAGI...

OF COURSE I AM.

IT'S THE FASTEST WAY.

WHY, YOU DOOFUS...!!!

BEING A SHINYUU WOULD MEAN... THAT, RIGHT!?

YOUR FATHER'S TURNING 30 THIS YEAR, Y'KNOW!?

ME, IN A SAILOR OUTFIT... YOU LITTLE...

WHY, YOU LITTLE ...!!

THAT'S THE PROBLEM ...?

Come on now, oy!!

RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE

ENOUGH ABOUT THE CLOTHES, IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER.

WELL, NOT THAT I THINK IT WOULDN'T STILL LOOK GOOD ON ME...

OHHHH?

THIS'S THE CAFETERIA...

YEAH... IF YOU HEAD THROUGH THIS BUILDING YOU'LL SEE IT RIGHT ON THE OTHER SIDE.

Y-

WHERE CAN I FIND THE PLACE WHERE THEY'RE HAVING THE FIGHT TODAY?

ONEE-SAN.

POP

WHOA...

YOU'RE A NEW STUDENT? BOY, ARE YOU HUGE...

THIS PLACE'S REAL BIG, I CAN'T REMEMBER IT ALL...

IS THAT RIGHT...? SORRY BOUT THAT...

Hm

mm?

NAHHH, NOT REALLY!

THE SEA IN FRONT OF MY GRANDPA'S HOUSE IS WAYYY WAYYY HUGER.

NO NO NO, YOU'RE CONFUSED HERE. I'M-

NO...

Hold

ALLLL RIGHT, ALLLL RIGHT, JUST COME ON NOW.

YOU ONLY JUST STARTED HERE, OF COURSE YOU'LL GET LOST SOMETIMES.

AND NOT WEARING YOUR UNIFORM, EITHER...

Geeeez

YOU TOO, WHAT'RE YA DOIN, HURRY UP NOW.

Shock

hUh?

NO... THAT'S A DIFFERENT MAGNITUDE OF HUGENESS THERE, RIGHT?

NOT A BAD VIEW.

OOH...

ШЗШЗhoA!!

HEEERE WE GO! COMBIIINE!!!

I SAID, THAT'S NOT IT. THE ONLY ONE LOST HERE IS YOU-

...WAIT, NOT THAT!

BONK

Ahhhh.

I'M A SECOND-YEAR. AND I'M NOT LOST!

OWWIE, THAT HURTS ...!

ENOUGH OF THIS...! DAD, HELP ME!!

MM?

Ohh

We got a serious idiot here!

How could an underclass-man be so ridiculously huge!?

Combined Height: Over 7' 3" (2m20cm)

...

SECOND-YEAR... HA HA HA... COME ON, NOW.

HOW COULD AN UPPERCLASSMAN BE SO SMALL AND TINY?

I'll remember this, traitor Dad!!

C'MON NOW, C'MON NOW, GOTTA HURRYYYY!!!

Y... YO...

AH HA HA HA...

I SEE, I SEE!

DA SH

What's the matter?

HAVE A GOOD TIME.

LOOKS LIKE YOU FOUND A PRETTY NICE HORSE THERE.

MAKES ME FEEL LIKE THINGS'RE JUST BEGINNING NOW.

This is actually kinda

Oh?

NEW STUDENTS ...

WE'LL HAVE ALL SORTS OF NEW SQUIRTS COMING INTO THIS PLACE.

BUT GUESS WE'LL JUST WAIT AND SEE.

THOUGH FOR THAT, GUESS I'LL HAVE TO RELY ON MADAM PRESIDENT COMING THROUGH FOR US...

Hoo—...

WOBBLE

揭示板

nchi Academy
-bearing Students

ank First-Place
eciding Match

ng Time: 14:00 ~
on: South Arena #1

Vuvuzelas
Prohibited

12:00

I KNOW TO EXERCISE SOME SELF-CONTROL, WHEN THERE'S AN IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT WE CAN'T BE LATE FOR.

JUST LIKE ALWAYS.

THIS TIME YOU...

"CAME BACK" WITHOUT TOO MUCH TROUBLE.

I'M GRATEFUL IT DIDN'T TAKE MORE EFFORT THAN IT DID.

SHI-ZUKU.

HOW ARE WE FOR TIME?

TWO HOURS TILL START.

I SEE...

SOUNDS JUST ABOUT PERFECT.

OF COURSE. I FEEL ABOUT READY TO COLLAPSE FROM HUNGER.

TRUE enough.

FIRST GET THAT SWEAT WASHED OFF YOU, THEN GET SOME FOOD IN YOUR BODY.

WHAT IS IT, CLAIRE?

...THAT'S SHIZUKU AND...

.....
.....

OH....

EH...

WE WERE BRINGING CHAIRS OVER TO THE ARENA FOR THE ALUMNI SEATING SECTION.

THEY TOLD US THERE WEREN'T QUITE ENOUGH ...

IT'S HOSHI-KAWA-SAN AND TSUKISHIMA-SAN. WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER HERE?

MY,

HOLD...

WHAT DO YOU TWO THINK YOU'RE DOING!!?

ON!!

AHH, JUST TAKING A FEW PRACTICE SWINGS.

A LITTLE LIGHT WARM-UP.

I'm the one asking here!! Why is the President working herself to exhaustion right when the fight's about to start!?!?

...NO!!! WAIT!!!

WOBBLE

FLING

And why did WE get stuck doing this again!?!?

I MEAN, MAYBE IF IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE, BUT YOU'RE GOING AGAINST *AKIRA AND SAE* HERE, AND YOU'RE STILL GOING LIKE A MADWOMAN RIGHT UP TO THE START OF THE DUEL...

ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO...?

NOT THAT I REALLY CARE AT THIS POINT WHAT HAPPENS TO TENCHI, BUT CAN YOU CONSIDER THINGS A LITTLE HERE?

WHAT EXACTLY WAS *LIGHT* ABOUT IT? YOU'RE COVERED IN SWEAT...

A *LIGHT* WARM-UP...?

Sigh...

?

AND YOU TOO, SHIZUKU. TRY TO RESTRAIN HER A LITTLE...

HOSHIKAWA-SAN, BUT...

PARDON ME,

.....
.....
.....

ALL RIGHT FOR *WHAT?*

...

...
...
...

?

flap
flap

LIKE I SAID, YOUR DUEL'S IN...

FOR WHAT...

I mean

WH...

YOU'RE SURE?

THEN, I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN IN THE ARENA.

I APOLOGIZE FOR HAVING STOPPED YOU.

NO, IT'S NOTHING.

GOOD GRIEF... THAT WOMAN...

SHE CAN MAKE HER LITTLE SPEECHES, BUT IN THE END...

Though she certainly has time to think about other people losing!

SHE NEVER ENTERTAINS THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF DOUBT THAT SHE'S GOING TO WIN.

WELL, THAT'S JUST NORMAL, AIN'T IT?

I NEVER THINK ABOUT MYSELF LOSING EITHER.

MN?

RATTLE

"JUST ONCE, I'D LIKE TO TRY LOSING"... "I WISH SOMEONE WOULD COME DEFEAT ME"... SHE'LL ONLY SAY THOSE THINGS WHEN HER SWITCH IS TURNED *OFF*.

FUNDAMENTALLY, THOSE FEELINGS DON'T EXIST IN HER.

ONCE THE SWITCH GOES ON, WHOEVER'S STANDING IN FRONT OF HER

IS ALREADY A LOSER IN HER MIND.

Really provoking...

"NATURAL BORN WINNER."

ALTHOUGH IN *HER* CASE...

IT MIGHT BE MORE *UNCON-* SCIOUS.

YOU TOO, CLAIRE! EVEN WHEN THE PRESIDENT WAS SPINNING YOU AROUND LIKE A TOP, YOU STILL THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA WIN!

Nwa ha!

STOP IT. PLEASE. IT HURTS.

BUT, WELL... I GUESS ANYONE WHO COMPETES TAKES THAT KIND OF CONSCIOUSNESS INTO IT.

OTHERWISE YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CONTEND.

.....
.....

The punk moron...

THE LION DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE RABBITS IT EATS.

J-JANG JANG BWANG

SOMEONE WHO CAME INTO THIS WORLD JUST TO WIN.

BUT IF TENCHI SHUTS DOWN, I'LL NEVER HAVE TO FIGHT THE PRESIDENT.

IF MIKADO WINS, THIS SCHOOL GOES TO HELL.

YET I STILL TRUST MIKADO TO WIN.

UNTOUCHABLE AND VICIOUS.

A loser-ass coward like you will be dead no matter where you go!!!!

MY LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS.

WIN THIS ONE FOR ME, FASHION PUNK.

GWA

THAT'S ENOUGH, REALLY... JUST PLEASE DO SOME WORK...

God damn it. I wanted to skip out today!

GH

Eh...

IT'S A LITTLE CREEPY HOW YOU'RE BEING ALL CALM AND SERIOUS...

AGHHHH!! SHUT THAT THING UP!!!

What the hell's gotten into...

DROO YOUR BWEST, MASWER!!!

MURMUR

MURMUR

OOh-
WhOO...

13:20

MURMUR

THIS PLACE IS hUGE!

IF NOTHING ELSE, WE SHOULD HAVE A PRETTY GOOD VIEW.

MURMUR

BUT, THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL GET WITH THE PRESIDENT WE HAVE.

IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'RE USING LONG-RANGE WEAPONS DOWN THERE, SO THERE'S REALLY NO POINT TO SUCH A WIDE PITCH...

I'M NOT SURE YOU COULD SAY THERE'S NO POINT AT ALL.

I WONDER ABOUT THAT.

Hmm...

Jun-Jun!

Hn

THERE'S NO WAY OF SAYING WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN WITH LIGHT OR WIND CONDITIONS.

AND MOREOVER, WE'RE OUTDOORS.

WE WON'T MISS THE SINGLE TINIEST MOVEMENT THEY MAKE DOWN THERE.

A FLAT, BROAD SPACE LIKE THIS, WITH NO OBSTRUCTIONS...

THIS IS LIKE CHRISTMAS DAY FOR SKIRTS GETTING FLIPPED UP OR SEEN THROUGH.

AND SO WHAT?

LET ME STAY IN NEVERLAND A LITTLE BIT LONGER!!!

I DON'T WANNA BE THAT KIND OF ADULT!

ZOOZ

THIS IS THE RESPONSE OF A HIGH-SCHOOLER.

GIVE IT UP AND BECOME AN ADULT, KUGA JUN.

.....
.....
.....

Where should we sit?

EH...

HUH? IGNORING ME...?

WAIT... COME ON, REACT SOMEHOW! YOU'RE MAKING ME UNEASY!

OOHH,

THERE YOU ARE, KUROGANE-DONO!

NUH!

I SEE...

Don't recognize me?

I'M SORRY, BUT... WHO ARE YOU?

.....
.....

GREAT TO SEE YOU BOTH LOOKING WELL.

AND, MUDOU-DONO TOO.

OWING TO MY SEARCH FOR EMPLOYMENT, I MUST GUSSY MYSELF UP LIKE THIS.

FORGIVE ME. IT IS I.

Job interviews even on Sunday

BOSSSSS..!?

HIGH SCHOOL FIRST YEAR ASAKURA MIZUCHI.

THIS KIND MADAM WAS GRACIOUS ENOUGH TO GUIDE ME ALL THE WAY INTO THE VENUE.

HM? OH, NO...

SOMEONE FROM THE EMPLOYMENT COUNSELING SERVICE?

AND? WHO'S THAT WITH YOU?

I'm truly indebted to you!

NO NEED TO GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO DRAG ME IN. REALLY.

It finally occurs to me that you're doing this on purpose

HA HA HA... PLEASE, YOU'RE EMBAR-RASSING ME!

WhOAhh. AMAZING!! IT'S LIKE A TOTAL TRANS-FORMATION!

More than how she looks... the thing that scares me is the idea of her job-hunting...

THEY CAN'T BUT BE ON HAND TO WITNESS IT THEM-SELVES.

IF THE FATE OF TENCHI ITSELF IS TO BE DECIDED HERE,

I SUP-POSE THAT MAKES SENSE.

REALLY, THOUGH... WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS ASSEMBLAGE HERE?

WHO STAND TO BE BEREFT OF THEIR HAVEN.

ALL THE MORE FOR THE SWORD-BEARERS,

How much time left now, Yukari?!

Go wherever you like, just quit yer goddamn crying and moaning

Where will I go, if Tenchi gers shut down ?

.40 more minutes

Please stop asking every 5 minutes

Maybe Arizona?

THOSE WITHOUT SWORDS ALONGSIDE THOSE WITH THEM...

NEARLY EVERY SINGLE GRADUATE CAME BACK AS WELL.

BUT TELL ME,

WHO IS THIS DISCARDED-LOOKING INDIVIDUAL THAT'S BEEN BESIDE US THIS WHOLE TIME?

YOU CAN JUST LEAVE HER.

SINCE SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO STAY IN NEVERLAND.

IF I HAD MY WISH, TENCHI COULD CONTINUE TO BE JUST SUCH A PLACE.

THE COUNTRY OF CHILDREN WHO NEVER GROW UP.

NEVER-LAND.

BUT... IN THE END, WHATEVER SHALL PASS, SHALL PASS.

NOW THAT I'VE LEFT, I ONLY FEEL SO MORE STRONGLY.

WHAT IS IT, ENSUU?

?

!

AMACHI ...?

THAT'S...

SEEMS WE PICKED A PRETTY NICE PLACE TO SIT.

!

WELL, NOW...

YO.

REALLY WANTED TO SEE YOU.

LIAR.

EVEN THOUGH YOU NEVER CALLED ME ONCE?

SORRY 'BOUT THAT.

BUT TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU, TODAY I'LL KEEP YOU COMPANY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE.

IF YOU DON'T COLLAPSE HALFWAY THROUGH, THAT IS.

Heh heh.

WELL, THAT'S...

THE MOST EXCITING PROPOSAL

I'VE EVER HAD THE PLEASURE TO RECEIVE IN MY LIFE.

NANA

.....
.....
.....

Standard operations, huh?

PLEASE PUT THE BANANA AWAY, PRESIDENT.

There's still plenty of time to eat

MY APOLOGIES. I TOOK TOO LONG IN SHOWERING AND MISSED MY CHANCE TO EAT.

Want some?

FOR NOW, JUST PUT THE BANANA AWAY.

.....
.....
.....

No

A banana?

Oh, SHOOT!! SHE'S GOT THE SAME THING AS ME!!!

Can we even get back!?

WHERE'S THIS, NOW...

OHHH ...?

×HAYATE×CROSS×BLADE×

REMEMBER

×HAYATE
CROSS
BLADE×

#76

Idiot in the Sky with Diamonds

MURMUR

MURMUR

YES?

...

SHIZUKU.

THIS HEAT...

THAT'S BEING DIRECTED OUR WAY.

AS THOUGH THREATENING TO CRUSH US.

YOU CAN SENSE IT TOO, RIGHT?

YES.

I'VE FELT IT THIS WHOLE TIME.

IT WILL RUSH UPON US WITH ENOUGH FORCE TO BURN US TO ASHES.

HOWEVER, AS YET, THAT HEAT REMAINS STILL ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR.

THE INSTANT WE OPEN THAT DOOR...

YOU NEED ONLY CONCERN YOURSELF

I AM YOUR SHIELD, HITSUGI-SAN.

WITH THE SWORD.

SHIZUKU.

YOU KNOW, ELF...

THAT'S HOW I WOULD FEEL, IN HIS PLACE.

HE WAS MERELY GRIEVING HIS OWN INABILITY TO BE KING OF THE OSTRICHES.

ELF, THE ONE-LEGGED OSTRICH... I DON'T THINK HE WAS SAD BECAUSE HIS FRIENDS FORGOT HIM AND ABANDONED HIM.

BUT ONCE THE FIGHT BEGINS, THERE'S NOBODY AT ALL IN MY MIND.

IT MAY HAPPEN THAT I GO INTO BATTLE CARRYING MY COMRADES ON MY BACK...

EVEN FOR ALL MY TALK OF WANTING TO PROTECT THIS SCHOOL.

NOT EVEN YOU, SHIZUKU.

I'M NOT THINKING OF ANYONE IN THE WORLD.

Um...

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT'S GOOD OR NOT, PRESIDEN...

...HITSUGI-SAN, BUT THAT'S JUST THE WAY YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN.

IS THERE SOME PROBLEM WITH THAT?

IN FACT AT THOSE TIMES THE TIP OF MY SWORD'S BLADE IS THE WHOLE AND ENTIRETY OF MY THOUGHTS AND CONSCIENCE.

CAN THAT REALLY BE A GOOD THING...?

IF EVERY NOW AND THEN ONE OF US STARTS TO FALL OFF... THAT'S NOTHING YOU NEED TO CONCERN YOURSELF WITH.

'Cause it was too noisy

Oh yeah,

they took my vuvuzela away!

WE CRAWLED UP THERE ON OUR OWN.

LIKE YOU SAID, WE JUST HAPPEN TO BE ON YOUR BACK.

AND IF WE DIDN'T, IT'D ONLY TAKE ONE GLIMPSE OF YOUR SWORD TO UNDERSTAND, HITSUGI-SAN.

WE ALL KNEW WHAT WE WERE GETTING INTO WHEN WE SIGNED UP. SWORDBEARERS, AND REST OF THE STUDENTS AS WELL.

Nice shot, Shizuku! Nice hit..!

No...

DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG AGAIN!?

Wh...

YOU'D NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PUT TOGETHER A WEIRD SCHOOL LIKE THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE!

IF YOU HADN'T BEEN A PERSON LIKE THAT,

The world's #1 Miyamoto...!!!

HA HA HA HA HA HA

...

Assss ha ha ha ha

...SHE'S FREAKING LAUGHING.

BWA-HA!

I ACTUALLY DID SENSE SOME NERVOUSNESS IN HER, HOWEVER SLIGHT...

REALLY... THERE'S NOBODY FOR THE PRESIDENT QUITE LIKE SHIZUKU.

BUT NOW, IT'S JUST BEEN BLOWN AWAY.

THAT'S THE WAY IT GOES AT THIS PLACE.

AH HA HA...

SHIZUKU MUST'VE KNOCKED AGAINST HER FUNNY BONE AGAIN.

WHEN WE'RE OVER HERE DESPERATELY TRYING TO PUT THE SCREWS ON 'EM...

PISSING ME OFF RIGHT TO THE VERY END.

Damn her...

NOBODY FOR A SHINYUU LIKE HER SHINYUU.

YEAH...

IS SAE.

AND THE ONE FOR ME...

THANK YOU.

YOU'RE THE REASON I'M ABLE TO WIN.

TWEE-

13:50

THE WEAPONS CHECK IS COMPLETE. NO PROBLEMS WERE FOUND.

HERE YOU ARE

THANKS.

TODAY,

I'LL PAY YOU BACK FOR ALL THE THINGS I OWE YOU.

Here you go

...

AH HA...

GO EASY ON ME, GEEZ...!

FOR A MOMENT THERE, I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO CRY.

IT'LL BE MY FIRST TIME SEEING IT.

SURE, GO AHEAD. CRY.

WOW...

YIKES...

WASN'T REALLY EXPECTING THAT.

OH...

THERE WON'T BE A WEAK SPOT ANYWHERE TO BE FOUND.

MY, MY... THIS IS A SCARY THING.

ONEE-TAMA WITH A WEAPON LIKE THAT...

JUST FROM THE LITTLE BIT I FOUGHT AGAINST HER, I CAN TELL.

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO CALL HER A DEMON OR JUST AN IDIOT.

I SEE INDEED.

SO THAT WAS THE POINT OF THAT LACROSSE PRACTICE.

GUESS SHE'S GOT SOME REAL CONFIDENCE IN HERSELF.

chew

chew

BUT, IF SHE SAW MY FIGHT AGAINST SHIZUKU AND IS STILL PULLING A THING LIKE THAT OUT...

WELL, IF NOTHING ELSE, IT HAS HAD *ONE* EFFECT,

THAT SWORD.

SOME *TRICKS* UP HER SLEEVE, RIGHT?

Bring 'em out!!

SHE MUST BE HIDING SOME SNACKS UP HER SLEEVE!

BANG BANG

WELL, IF SHE'S AN IDIOT YOU'RE AN IDIOT TOO FOR THAT WEIRD STRETCHY SWORD YOU USED.

MMN...

chew

chew

You came right out and said that, huh...?

"HOW WILL THE PRESIDENT AND SHIZUKU COUNTER?"...

"HOW WILL SHE FIGHT WITH THAT THING?"

murmur

THAT DARK, BROODING MOOD, WITH EVERYONE WORRYING ABOUT TENCHI, IS GONE.

THE ATMOSPHERE IN HERE HAS CHANGED ENTIRELY.

murmur

NOW THEY'RE ALL JUST CAUGHT UP IN THEIR CURIOSITY.

NOTHING LESS, FROM THE IDIOTS' PARADISE.

Heaven Sword: Mikado Akira, Earth Sword: Inori Sae.

The challengers,

We will now commence the match to determine the top spot in Rank S.

Heaven Sword: Amachi Hitsugi, Earth Sword: Miyamoto Shizuku.

Opposing them,

Current number-ones in the Swordsmanship Scholarship program,

THEN WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO...!!?

YOU'RE WEIRDING US OUT.

IT'S JUST A BIT TOO NORMAL, OR...

NO...

Well! for something YOU'RE doing, not really at all normal

どぉん

.....
.....
.....

WHAT?

...

The battle will proceed with no time limit. That is all.

Why am I backlit...?

As witnesses, the entire student body of Tenchi Academy, and the members of the 45th graduating class.

...Both Heaven and Earth's uniforms are designed to change color upon receiving a decisive blow.

So then.

With the sound of this coin hitting the ground as signal,

we will begin.

...EVEN I CAN PICK UP ON THE MOOD AT A TIME LIKE THIS.

GOOD LUCK TO YOU, EVERYONE!!

Especially Hitsugi-sama

...

LET ME CORRECT MYSELF.

YOU'RE *CREEPING* US OUT.

Yep

Yeah

THAT'S THE SAME!!! AND REALLY MEAN!!!

Oogh

Alumni Seats

The duel will thus end when either pair's Heaven Sword has been dyed black.

HITSUGI.

EVERYTHING UP TILL NOW WAS A LOT OF FUN,

LET ME SAY ONE FINAL THING.

"NOW" IS ALWAYS A LOT OF FUN.

...FOR ME,

Just by doing *randori*s over and over again, they've made top spot already?

I can't believe it.

It hasn't even been 4 months since she paired with Miyamoto.

Maybe the Fix is in?

she is the Dean and the Director of the school.

But y'know,

Dummy!

That person is no joke!

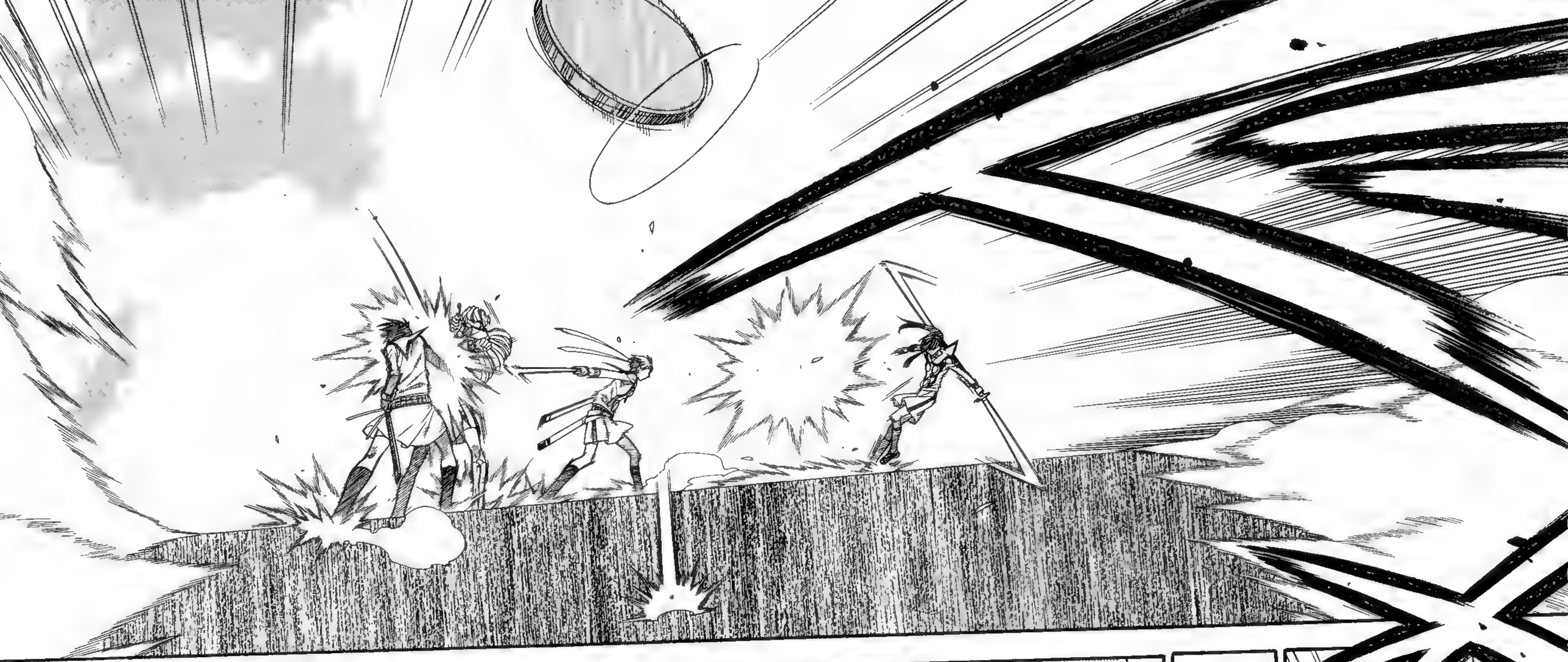
Give her a try yourself and you'll see!

Ehhh

Sae.

That's the one.

WE'RE GOING TO TAKE THAT STAR.


Ohh...

MY SHINYUU WOULDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO TEST HER SKILLS.

IF IT HAD ALL ENDED IN A SECOND,

AND A GOOD THING, TOO.

DON'T GET TOO FAR AWAY, NOW.

SCHINK!

IT GIVES ME A LITTLE TOO MUCH BREATHING ROOM.

!!

A LOAD!

quiver

quiver

CER...
TAINLY...
IS...

...

!!!

HAH...

BUT,

EVEN
SO...

...!?

I CAN SEE IT ALL, SHI-ZUKU.

IT... IT'S JUST...

MMWH...

WHAT'S WITH THE SNAP-TO?

WHAT IS IT, KURO?

SOMEHOW I JUST WANT IT TO HURRY UP AND END...

drip

SOMEHOW I JUST GOT REAL SCARED AND NER-VOUS...

Owhowhoa..

HELL NO I don't know what you mean!!

KNOW WHAT I MEAN!!?

OR MORE LIKE... I WANNA BE DOWN THERE TOO!! I WANNA GET IT ON TOO!!

BUT I ALSO DON'T WANT IT TO END AT ALL!!

Eh...!

I'd also like to get it on!

THIS KIND OF FIREWORKS, RIGHT FROM THE START...

ACTUALLY, MAYBE I KIND OF DO...

U

OH? WAIT...

.....
.....

IT'S SO AWESOME, BUT.....

HAAH...

IT'S SUCH A WASTE...

IT JUST SEEMS LIKE SUCH AN AWFUL WASTE, MASTER...

[はやてメブレード]⑬・完

Trivia

Pages 154-155

Hitsugi is referring here to the children's story *Elf, the One-Legged Ostrich*, by Onoki Gaku. Here is a brief sypnosis of the story, taken from the Japanese Literature Publishing and Promotion Center's website:

"Elf, a strapping young ostrich, is just as fond of children as he is loved by them. He takes the young of other animals for rides on his back, extends his long neck to pluck nuts and seeds for them, and frightens off jackals by imitating a lion's roar. One day a lion attacks. Elf fights hard to protect his charges, and has one leg chewed off in the process. As he heals, at first the other animals bring him food, but gradually they forget about him and he is left to himself. When a black panther appears on the scene, preying on the young, Elf gathers onto his back those too small to run to safety, rises to his full height, and fights the predator off. As the young creatures climb down to thank him, they discover that Elf has turned into a glorious shade-giving tree."
(http://www.booksfromjapan.jp/publications/item/210-elf-the-one-legged-ostrich)

#EXTRA
Excluded Idiots

NEVER FORGET THE PRIDE OF A STRAY.

LIVE STRONG.

He—w

PLEASE DON'T LOOK TO ME FOR HELP.

I'M NOT TO BLAME FOR THIS, AND I CAN'T TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT.

...

I'M VERY SORRY, BUT I CAN'T TAKE YOU BACK TO THE DORMS.

Me—w

Come on now, "mew" won't work on me

steel

stride

stride

Meuuuuu

stride

stride

NOTHING LIKE A NICE STROLL THROUGH A LITTLE WARM SPRING RAIN.

Myaow

HEH...

Returned later with a cat carrier, ended up taking care of it while she searched for a foster parent.

HUH...?

SOMEBODY, HELP...!!!

S...

EHHHH HHH!!?

Shrieeek!

A purse-snatcher!

MY PURSE!!

ALL OF MY PENSION MONEY IS IN THERE!!

Hold...

Ooooh!

BA

click

YAHH HH!!!

GUG

A... ANYWAY, FOR NOW...!

THIS SORT OF THING'S ONLY SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN ON TV!

ﾄﾞｷﾄﾞｷ

WHEE-WHOO
WHEE-WHOO

I WAS JUST LUCKY TO HAVE THIS LOAF OF HARD FRENCH BREAD.

OH NO, NOT AT ALL!

Ohhhhhhhh

bOw

YOU MUST BE A REINCARNATION OF THE BUDDHA HIMSELF!!

OHH HOHHH... HOW GRATEFUL I AM TO YOU, YOUNG LADY!!!

Eaten completely afterwards

I'M MERELY A PASSING SWORD-BEARER.

NO NEED TO CONCERN YOURSELF!

OHHH,

WELL, I'LL BE GOING, THEN...

WAIT, PLEASE! AT LEAST TELL ME YOUR NAME!

A local paper ran a story the following day under the headline "Mysterious Elementary-Schooler in Heroic Rescue."

NEE-CHAN!!

I'M HOME, MAMORU, HONAMI!!

YO!!!!!

C'MON! WE'RE ALL GOING SHOPPING!!

YEAhhhh!

THEN, WE'LL HAVE DINNER WAITING FOR 'EM WHEN THEY GET BACK!

YOU TWO BEEN BEIN' GOOD!?

YEP!

Man, sure has been a while!!

Wha ha ha

SAID THEY'D BE LATE AGAIN TODAY.

WHERE ARE DAD AND GRANDMA AT?

A big, roast chicken

Sunset!

In the glowing sky at sunset

Ordinary Nice Big Sister

Claire...

...

20XX 10/10 12:36

That's right... I tried my best... so I don't feel bad about it...

Eughh...

It's fine, isn't it? Even if you fell down and ended up last, you kept running all the way to the end.

Goodness gracious, this girl... just a minute ago you were all smiles!

3-2

Ah ha ha ha ha...

You can be so silly sometimes...

Geez...

...

Wahh hhhh

Now, now... C'mon, Let's eat!

But...

I hurt all overrrr...

wah—h

My muscles are gonna be so soreeee...

SO, THERE YOU HAVE IT.

THIS COMPILATION OF DEMONSTRATIONS OF YOUR MOST BEAUTIFUL SIDES, AS HAPPENED FORTUITOUSLY TO BE CAPTURED ON FILM (BY TATEWAKD.

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

HOLD ON JUST A SECOND!

WHY IS MINE THE ONLY ONE THAT'S ANCIENT??

DOES IT EASE YOUR SADNESS AT BEING LEFT OUT OF THE DRAMA CD CONFERENCE THIS TIME AROUND?

And when I'm supposed to be a dog person... I'm ashamed

You were really cool, Hizuchi-san!

Pretty amazing, Claire

THIS ACADEMY'S A CRIMINAL STATE AT THIS POINT!!!

FORGET THAT, I'M ASKING YOU *HOW ON EARTH* YOU GOT YOUR HANDS ON THIS VIDEO!!

NO GOOD?

WELL, IN SORTING THROUGH EXAMPLES OF YOUR RADIANCE, HOSHIKAWA-SAN, NATURALLY WE HAD TO CHOOSE THIS ONE...

AHH...

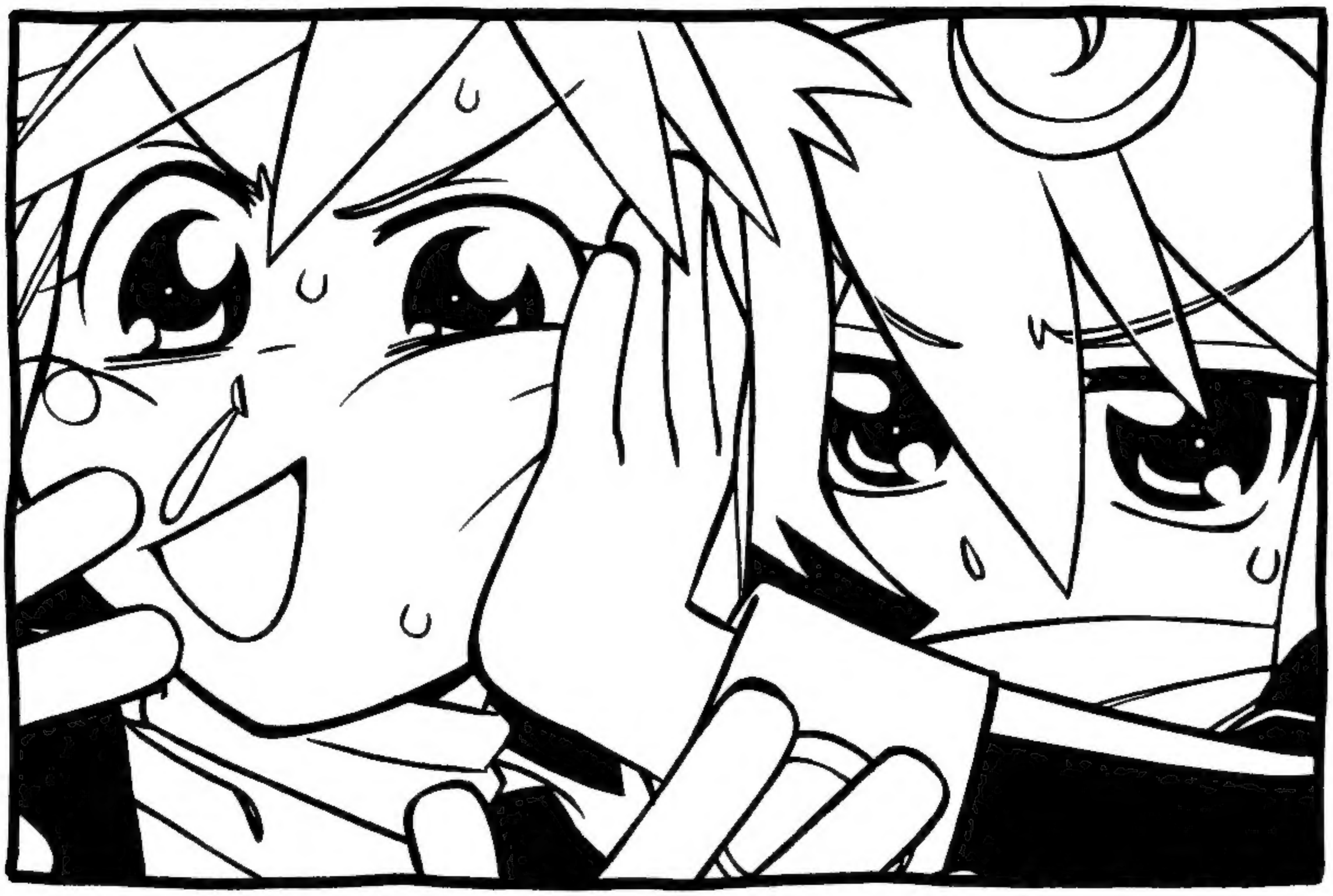
Just one clear loser here.

This is great, Claire!

Hmmm hm-hm-hmm- hm-hmm

Though come to think of it, this was really your only good moment

Next Volume: Man, I Dunno... A couple minor characters...?



AFTERWORD

The evil 13th volume

Thanks very much!! As always!! Working steadily away I've managed to get everything finished.

The cover combo, the cats on the inside flap, the illustration for this page... I've started thinking I should bring the family-survey series to a close soon too. Lately I've been having delusions halfway through chapters that a voice is whispering to me, "Anything's fine at this point, just hurry up and get it done." But it's not good to think in such a negative direction, so I'll just take it as an omen that everything can be redrawn for the tankoubon version.

Incidentally it might be a while before the next volume comes out, so wait for it with renewed whatever, or whatever. CRANK IT!!

Then, till Volume 14! Hayashiya Shizuru 2010.9

O... Oy oy oy! OY OY OY...!! The astonished assistant: Makise Ren

R.I.P. The feathered friend who watched me work from "Good morning" to "Good night" Mr. Paret

You'll be missed!

Hayate X Blade vol 13

Hayashiya Shizuru

Translation: Gulf Standard

Scans/Editing: Phyis

QC: Procyon

Yuri Project

yuriproject.net